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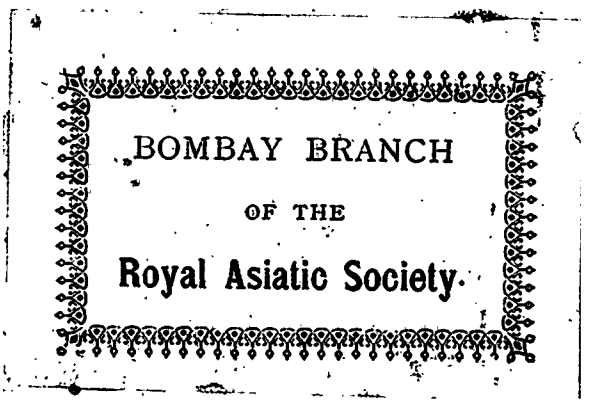

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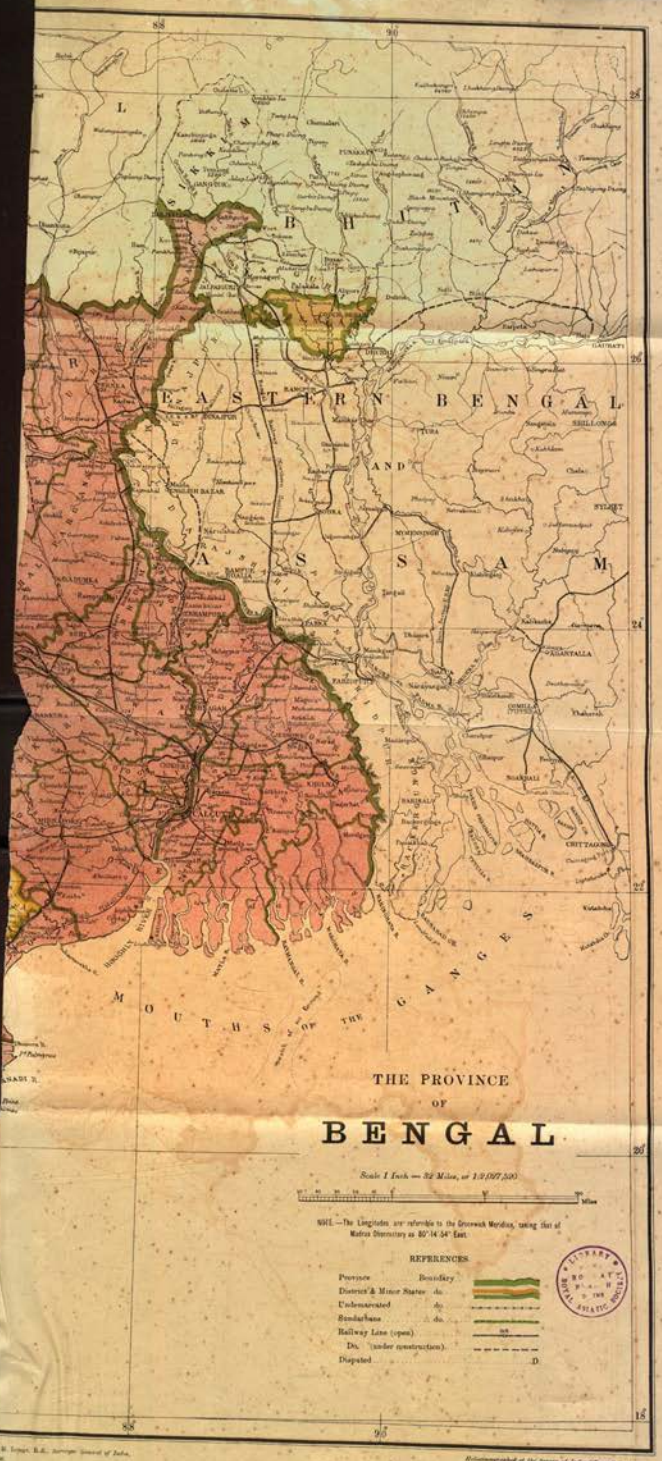

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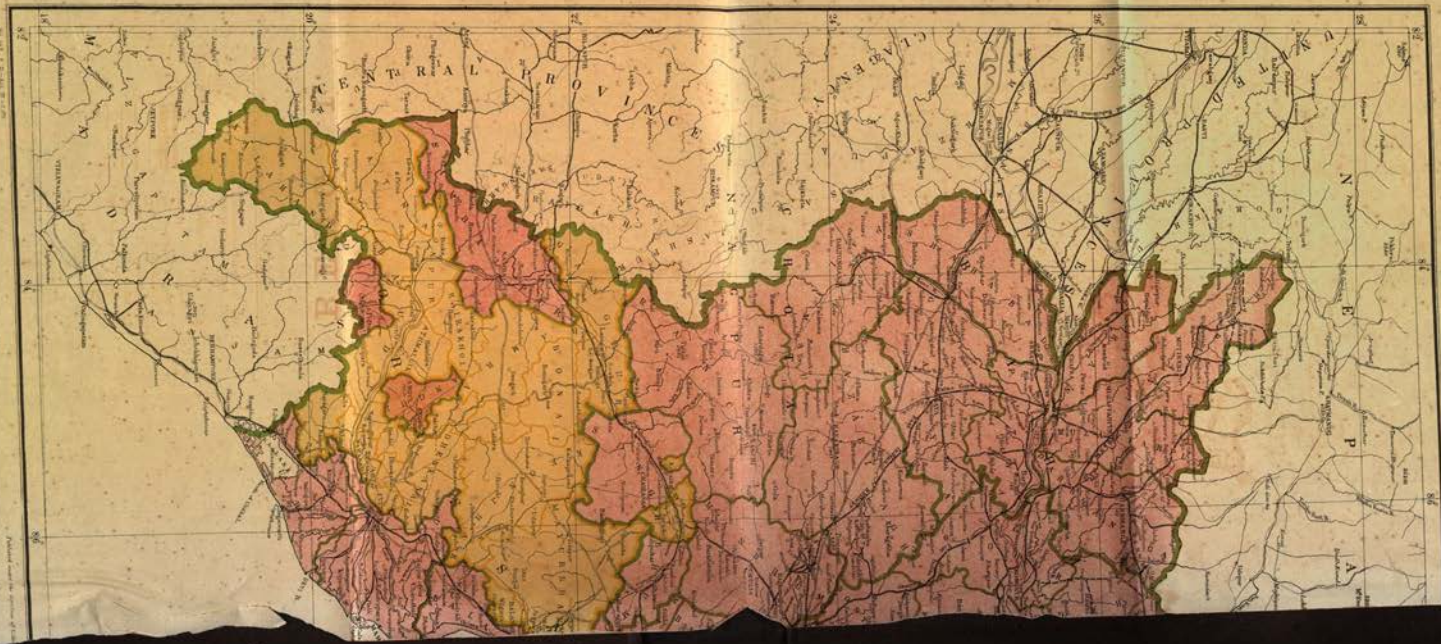
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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1905-1906.

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PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

SUMMARY.

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ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1905-1906.

PART I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

CHAPTER I.

POLITICAL AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

HEAD-QUARTERS OF GOVERNMENT AND TOURS OF HIS HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF BENGAL DURING 1905-1906.

Head-quarters of Government.

THE head-quarters of the Government of Bengal were at Darjeeling from 7th April to 3rd July 1905 and again from 5th September to 12th October 1905. For the remainder of the year Calcutta was the head-quarters.

Monsoon tours.

2. The usual monsoon tour commenced on the 10th July, and the first portion of it was devoted to visiting the Bihar districts. It was during this year that the new residence known as Chajjubagh House became available for occupation for the first time; and His Honour taking advantage of it stayed at Bankipur for ten days, and making it his head-quarters visited some of the divisions and sub-districts of Arrah, Champaran and Saran. His Honour paid a short visit to Sasaram, and from there went by launch along the canal to Dehri-on-Sone and by train to Buxar and thence to Dumraon, where His Honour opened a bridge constructed by the Maharani Saheba. From the latter place he returned to Bankipur and from there visited Motihari, Bettiah, Siwan, Hutwa and Chapra. Throughout the tour local officers, zamindars, and other leading private gentlemen were received and questions of local interest discussed. Addresses from public bodies and associations were presented to him explaining the needs and desires of the different districts and forming the basis of consideration with the local officers as to the action or assistance that was expedient or practicable.

The second portion of the tour comprised the districts of Monghyr, Bhagalpur, Purnea, Malda, Murshidabad, and the subdivision of Serampore, in the district of Hooghly. His Honour left Bankipur in the *Rhotas* and visited the above places. At Malda, His Honour visited the ruins at Pandua and Gaur. On the way down from Berhampur the battle-field of Plassey was visited; and a halt for a few hours was made at Serampore, where His Honour laid the foundation-stone of an out-door dispensary. His Honour returned to Calcutta on 12th August 1905, but again left it for Ranchi on the 19th, and halted at Purulia on his way to and from that place. He left Ranchi on the 30th.

Before leaving for Darjeeling on the 5th September 1905, His Honour paid informal visits to Jessore and Khulna. At the former place he inspected the state of the country round the town and was shown the difficulties connected with the drainage of the Bhairab bed.

At Sambalpur.

3. In October 1905 His Honour leaving Darjeeling went direct to Sambalpur, which had been newly transferred to Bengal from the Central Provinces, to settle the details of the administration with the local officers. After a halt of six days at this place His Honour visited the district of Singhbhum, and then returned to Calcutta on the 24th October 1905. In December 1905, His Honour left Calcutta again and paid visits to the districts of Birbhum and the Sonthal Parganas, and from the latter place he went to Bhagalpur to be present at the Police Conference and the distribution of prizes to the successful students of the Police School there. In the latter part of January 1906, His Honour visited Puri and Balasore by river; and in the beginning of February 1906 he accompanied His Excellency the Viceroy to Bankipur. Making Bankipur their head-quarters, both the Viceroy and His Honour visited Arrah, Ekma in the district of Saran, Gaya, Bodh Gaya, Daltonganj, and Gidhour.

Short tours.

4. Besides the above tours His Honour made some further short tours during the year. In April 1905 he went to Kalimpong and in June he visited the cinchona plantations at Sarail. In the early part of December he went to Asansol as a guest at the inaugural meeting of the Mining and the Geological Institute of India; and on the 12th His Honour went to Agra to bid good-bye to His Excellency Lord Curzon and returned to Calcutta on the morning of the 17th idem. On the 8th March 1906 he went to Chagdighi to inspect the flooded area in the Burdwan district in the neighbourhood of the Begwa river, and returned to Calcutta the same evening. The last tour of the year was His Honour's visit to Jharsaguda, for which place he left on the 28th March 1906. He returned on the 1st April 1906.

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

Changes in the formation of the Province.

5. The year under review was a notable one as effecting considerable changes in the administration of the Province. On 16th October 1905, the Commissionerships of Dacca, Chittagong and Rajshahi (except the district of Darjeeling) and the district of Malda were separated from Bengal to form a portion of the new Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The district of Darjeeling was attached to the Bhagalpur Commissionership from which the district of Malda had been taken to form part of the Rajshahi Commissionership in the new province. At the same time the district of Sambalpur (except the Chandarpur-Padampur Estate and the Phuljhar zamindari) and the five Uriya-speaking States of Patna, Kalahandi, Sonpur, Bamra and Rehrakhol were detached from the Central Provinces of which they had hitherto formed a part and added to the Orissa Division. In return, Bengal handed over to the Central Provinces the five native States of Jashpur, Sirguja, Udaipur, Korea and Changbhakar which form a solid block of territory with a Hindi-speaking population.

Minor changes.

6. Among minor changes within the Province itself, the two Uriya-speaking native States of Bonai and Gangpur were transferred from Chota Nagpur to the Orissa Division, to which linguistically they are more nearly allied. A new subdivision was created in the Ranchi district known as the Khunti subdivision. It has been decided to transfer the head-quarters of the Gobindpur subdivision from Gobindpur to Dhanbaid,

where land has been already acquired and the erection of the necessary subdivisional buildings taken in hand.

RELATIONS WITH TRIBUTARY STATES AND FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

Sikkim.

7. The year was, on the whole, a prosperous one for the Sikkim State. The weather was normal, the rainfall being slightly above that of the preceding year, and the health of the people continued to be satisfactory. The crops were good except in the case of the maize crop, the outturn of which was not up to that of the previous year. The people remain almost entirely agriculturists and there are practically no local industries. Immigration from Nepal is steadily increasing and is welcomed by all classes of the people, while very few emigrants left the State during the year. Education still continues to be in a backward condition, but there are now two schools in Gangtok and one elementary school was opened during the year in Lachung under the auspices of the Scandinavian Alliance Mission. The finances of the State are eminently satisfactory. Two important events of the year were the passage through the State of the Tashi Lama on his way to meet the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the visit of the Maharaja and Maharani with the Maharaj Kumar of Sikkim to Calcutta for the same purpose. The visit of the Tashi Lama created an immense sensation among the Buddhist population, large numbers coming into Gangtok to receive his blessing. The Maharaja and Maharani also visited Benares and Bodh Gaya before returning to Sikkim.

Bhutan.

8. The control of Bhutan was transferred to the Government of India before the commencement of the year under report.

Cooch Behar.

9. The general prosperity of the people of Cooch Behar has not been disturbed during the year under report. Although the outturn of the principal crops fell somewhat below the average owing to the uneven distribution of the rainfall, the deficiency was more than made up by the unusual rise in the prices of articles of produce and particularly in that of jute. Efforts to improve the drainage of the town of Cooch Behar are still in progress, and it is hoped that before long a comprehensive scheme for raising the low-lying lands and filling up the small tanks and holes which abound in and near the town may be adopted. Some anxiety is again being caused by the vagaries of the Torsa river which now threatens to desert the channel by the town along which it has hitherto passed. Education continues to make satisfactory progress and heinous crime is again noticeable by its absence. The Medical Department did useful work during the year. The total revenue of the State shows an increase over that of the previous year, if the sale-proceeds of the Simla property and furniture be excluded from the latter, while the total expenditure shows a considerable decrease.

Hill Tippera.

10. The control of this State passed to the new Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam on the 16th of October 1905.

Political States of Chota Nagpur.

11. Only two Native States now remain under the control of the Commissioner of Chota Nagpur, namely, Seraikela and Kharsawan. The health of the people of both States was good, and there were no epidemics during the year. The material condition of all classes was satisfactory. The total expenditure

on dispensaries showed an increase in both States, and education continued to make progress. The Jubaraj of Seraikela is being educated in the Chaibassa Zilla School, and the minor Chief of Kharsawan is still at the Raj Kumar College, Raipur. Favourable reports are received of both.

Tributary and Feudatory States of Orissa.

12. The material condition of the people was, on the whole, satisfactory in all the States. The public health was good, except in the States of Dhenkanal, Nayagarh and Moharbhanj, where fever and cholera broke out in an epidemic form. Economic conditions were generally favourable. The highest price quoted for common paddy was fifteen seers per rupee for a short period before the harvest in Rehrakhol, the lowest price being 32 seers per rupee in Patna. The collection of revenue was readily effected in all the States. Education continues to make gradual progress, especially in Moharbhanj, where special efforts have been made to promote it among the aboriginal races. There has been a large increase in expenditure in the maintenance of dispensaries, which are reported to be doing useful work, especially in the remote and inaccessible regions in the hill tracts of the Garjat States.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE IN BENGAL.

Condition of the people in Bengal.

13. There was no material change in the generally prosperous condition of the people throughout the year under review. As in previous years certain districts suffered from time to time from special causes, but the distress was nowhere of so serious a nature as to affect materially the general prosperity of the province. The prices of food-grains ruled higher than in the previous year in almost every district. This is largely attributable to the short harvest in Eastern Bengal, which consequently not only failed to furnish its usual supply of food-grains to Bengal, but drew from the latter large supplies to make good its own deficiency. The rise in prices was, however, largely compensated for by the general upward tendency in the rate of wages which was noticeable throughout the Province, and particularly in those districts where works of public utility are in course of progress, in the colliery districts, and in the neighbourhood of the mills and factories on the banks of the Hooghly.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

REALISATION OF THE REVENUE.

Collection of the Revenue.

14. The total demands and collections show a very considerable increase over those of the previous year and are the highest during the quinquennial period. The percentages of collections were higher than in any of the preceding years and the total remissions and balances were the lowest on record. The total collections, current and arrear, were 97·44 per cent. of the total and 100·25 per cent. of the current demand as against 97 and 99·65 per cent. respectively in the previous year. There was an increase in the demand in all three classes of estates—permanently-settled estates, temporarily-settled estates, and estates held direct by Government—as compared with the preceding year.

15. The system of remitting land revenue, cesses and rent by money-order continues to increase in popularity. Remittances in no less than six districts exceeded a lakh of rupees. The system of payment of rent by money-order was in force throughout the year in every part of the province except in the districts of Cuttack, Balasore, Angul, Darjeeling, the Sonthal Parganas and the Chota Nagpur Division. In the last quarter of the year, the privilege was extended to the tenants of the districts of Cuttack and Balasore; and the Select Committee when dealing with the Chota Nagpur Landlord and Tenant Procedure Act Amendment Bill of 1906 will consider the question of extending it to the Chota Nagpur Division. Remittances of Land Revenue, Cesses and Rent by money-order.

16. The number of estates, shares and interests which defaulted show an increase on the previous year, but the number of sales actually held show a small decrease. One hundred and thirty-eight appeals against sales were preferred before Commissioners, and of these 24 sales were annulled and 16 were recommended for amendment on the ground of hardship. Operation of the Sale Laws.

17. The number of certificates filed shows a considerable increase over that of the preceding year. In the Sonthal Parganas cesses were levied for the first time and sixty-three certificate cases were filed for their realization. Certificate cases.

18. The percentage of applications for land registration to the total number of interests in the registers for the whole Province was slightly higher than in the previous year. The percentage was highest in the Burdwan and lowest in the Orissa Division. The total number of interests at the close of the year was considerably more than a million, being higher by nearly ten thousand than in the previous year. Land Registration.

SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS.

19. The outturn of the year is considerably less than that of last year. The full programme proposed, however, has been worked up to in every respect, and in most cases slightly exceeded, except the record-writing programme which was reduced during the field season at the request of the Settlement Officer of Bhagalpur. It has been proposed to bring the survey of Calcutta proper up to date and to maintain an establishment to deal with all changes as they occur, thus ensuring correct and up-to-date maps of the whole of Calcutta. Minor surveys by non-professional agency were conducted in connection with petty settlements throughout the Lower Provinces and progress was made in the smaller settlements under the Bengal Tenancy Act and supervised by Commissioners of Divisions. Surveys and Settlements.

LAND RECORDS.

20. For the purpose of arriving at a suitable and practical scheme for the maintenance of settlement records, an experimental revision settlement was undertaken with regard to a group of villages situated in the Sadar thana of the district of Balasore, but it was not completed until after the close of the year under review. Field work was done during the Land Records.

cold weather by the Presidents of the Chaukidari Unions under the supervision of a kanungo. Although the work done by them in preparing the record of initial mutations was good so far as it went, sufficient allowance had not been made for the difficulty and trouble of incorporating the changes in the khatians for attestation. It has therefore been decided to have the general revision of the records in Orissa done by a paid staff under the control of the Settlement Officer. For subsequent annual maintenance where the changes will be less numerous, there is ground for hope that a local agency under capable supervision will be found sufficient.

WASTE LANDS.

Waste Lands.

21. The reclamation operations at Fraserganj in the 24-Parganas portion of the Sundarbans continued during the year. They consisted chiefly in raising embankments and clearing portions of the Island to the extent of over three thousand acres. There were twenty-seven settlers on the estate at the close of the year.

GOVERNMENT WARDS, AND ATTACHED ESTATES.

Government, Wards and Attached Estates.

22. The total number of estates under direct management during the year, including estates of private individuals managed by Government, was one thousand eight hundred and forty-four with a current demand of over twenty-seven lakhs. The number of wards and attached estates was one hundred and sixty-four. The total payments on account of revenue and cesses due to Government showed a considerable falling off, representing only 89 per cent. of the demand as against 96 per cent. in the previous year. Special attention has been drawn to the subject of the education of wards under Government, and the Lieutenant-Governor has desired the Board to submit a separate report on the subject.

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

Revenue and Rent-paying Classes.

23. The relations between landlords and tenants appear to have been satisfactory on the whole in all the districts of the province with few exceptions. In Ranchi they have been to a certain extent strained, but it is hoped that the present settlement will place them on a more satisfactory footing. In the greater portion of the province the Bengal Tenancy Act is in force, and it is reported to have worked favourably throughout the year. It is satisfactory to note that landlords and tenants are becoming more familiar with its provisions and are consequently better able to guard their own interests.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

LEGISLATION.

Acts passed.

24. Four Acts (Nos. IV to VI of 1905 and I of 1906) were passed by the Bengal Council during the year 1905-06, viz., Bengal Act IV of 1905 (The Calcutta Port Amendment Act), Bengal Act V of 1905 (The Chota

Nagpur Tenancy Amendment Act), Bengal Act VI of 1905 (The Calcutta and Suburban Police Superannuation Fund Act), and Bengal Act I of 1906 (The Bengal Court of Wards' Amendment Act).

Bills brought before the Council.

25. A Bill to provide for the discontinuance of brothels and disorderly houses in certain localities in Bengal and a Bill to amend the Land Registration Act, 1876 (Bengal Act VII of 1876), were introduced in Council during the year and passed after its close.

POLICE.

Police work in the Mufassal.

26. The year under review has been remarkable for the number of reforms that have been introduced consequent on the recommendations of the Police Commission. Among the most important was a large addition to the subordinate staff amounting to as many as 681 officers and men, of whom the majority were appointed for investigation work. Two schools for the training of constables and head-constables, also recommended by the Police Commission, were opened—one at Nathnagar in Bhagalpur for up-country men, and the other at Purulia in Manbhum for Bengalis. The discipline of the force shows a slight improvement, the number of men convicted under the Penal Code being only ·7 per cent. of the entire force. The health of the force was slightly better than in the previous year. The Town Police is at present in a state of transition and all town chaukidars will ultimately be replaced by constables. The establishment will be augmented by the addition of several officers, as recommended by the Police Commission. The scheme for the establishment of a separate River Police is still under consideration. The system of beats already established along the embankments is again reported to have proved effectual in preventing crime. Other reforms carried into effect are the raising of the pay of all subordinate ranks to the prescribed minimum sanctioned by the Government of India; the strengthening of the District Police Reserve; the appointment of European Inspectors to twenty-four out of thirty-three districts, with European Sergeants to assist them; and the organization of the Provincial Criminal Investigation Department.

The total number of cognisable cases shows a slight decrease as compared with that of the preceding year. In the number of rioting cases, however, there has been a slight increase which was most marked in the Burdwan and Patna Divisions. Dacoity and robbery each show a slight increase. The number of serious crimes against the person, on the other hand, shows a decided improvement. A decrease is also reported in the number of railway offences, and in the number of bad-livelihood cases instituted under section 110 of the Criminal Proceedure Code. The Criminal Investigation Department did valuable work, particularly in connection with the investigation of certain promissory note forgery cases, which ended in the conviction of five persons. It is reported that since these convictions the circulation of forged Government currency notes has almost ceased.

Police work in Calcutta.

27. The scheme for the reorganisation of the Calcutta Police was sanctioned by the Government of India during the year and it is now being gradually introduced. Some of the chief reforms that have been so far effected are the increase of the minimum pay of native constables and that of European constables, now called Sergeants; an increase in the number of sergeants, native

constables, and native officers who are now called head-constables, and the abolition of the system of making deductions from the pay of members of the force on account of the Superannuation Pension Fund, Government having undertaken to pay all pensions and gratuities from general revenues. The discipline of the force shows a decided improvement. There were fewer dismissals and departmental punishments than last year. The number of resignations without pension or gratuity has fallen very considerably, doubtless due to the improved prospects now offered by the Police.

The decrease in the number of burglaries in the town of Calcutta is almost exactly counterbalanced by the increase of burglaries in the suburbs. The percentage of convictions in cases tried by the Presidency Magistrate was high, as was also the case with those before the High Court and the Alipore Sessions Court. The institution of non-cognisable cases showed a marked increase. Twenty-seven juvenile offenders were sent to the Alipore Reformatory School, and sixty-two first offenders were dealt with under section 562, Criminal Procedure Code, as against thirty-eight in the previous year.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

Work of the year.

28. No material change took place in the constitution of the Criminal Courts of the Province during the year under review. The number of criminal offences showed an increase even on that of the previous year which had reached an unusually high figure. The increase was again most marked in the Presidency town and also in Gaya, Saran, and Ranchi. In Nadia and Palamau, however, which showed an increase last year, there was a decided decrease this year. The number of cases found to be false after trial or enquiry was considerably less than last year. The cases brought before Presidency Magistrates and cases under Special and Local Laws showed a considerable decrease, while the number of cases under the Penal Code increased during the year under report. The number of cases committed for trial or referred during the year showed only a slight decrease. Seven hundred and thirty-five appeals were preferred before the High Court, which was thirty-four less than in the previous year. The cases of seventy-eight European British subjects were decided during the year, as against eighty-one in the preceding year.

JAILS.

Jails.

29. The total prison population of Bengal at the close of the year amounted to 14,872, the daily average showing a slight increase over that of the previous year. The death-rate, which was the lowest on record last year, shows an increase during the year under report from 20·0 to 24·7 per mille. It is satisfactory to note, however, that in the Balasore Jail the death-rate has fallen from 79·7 to 22·6 per mille. In the Burdwan, Purulia and Midnapore Jails, the death-rate was high. The year has been one of considerable activity in the matter of buildings and many necessary works have been undertaken. The total number of offences committed by convicts and punishments inflicted by Superintendents shows an unfortunate increase, but corporal punishments, which had

increased considerably in the previous year, show a marked decrease. There has been a considerable amount of discontent among the warders owing to the increase of pay granted to the Police and to grievances in connection with sick-leave rules. Government awaits a report from the Inspector-General on the question of improving their pay and prospects before dealing with the subject.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

Calcutta High Court.

30. The number of civil suits decided during the year was 1,121, leaving 1,100 undisposed of at the close of the year. The number of suits under trial was fewer than at the commencement of the year by 159. There were 520 suits pending over one year, showing a decrease of 53 on the figures of the previous year.

Subordinate Civil Courts.

31. During the year the number of suits instituted in the Civil Courts amounted to 403,615, showing an increase of 13,654 even on that of the previous year, which itself furnished a record. The increase occurred in each class of suits, the institutions for money and moveables, rent suits and title suits showing increases of 5·7, 2·1, and 2·2 per cent., respectively. Thus the increase in institutions, though less than in previous years, continued during the year in all the districts of the Province, except Hooghly, Nadia, Gaya, Patna and Bankura. In Hooghly the decrease was large, but in the other districts it appears to have been only slight and casual. The total value of suits instituted amounted to over 12 crores of rupees, of which six crores represent the valuation of a title suit for the recovery of the Bettiah Raj, in the district of Champaran.

REGISTRATION.

Registration.

32. During the year under review, the scheme for the reorganisation of the Registration Department received the sanction of the Secretary of State for India. Under this scheme Special Sub-Registrars and Rural Sub-Registrars were graded on fixed salaries personal to them, and the service of Rural Sub-Registrars has been made pensionable from the date of the introduction of the scheme. The totals of registration receipts and expenditure were almost the same as in the preceding year, the difference in the total income of the Department being a decrease of Rs. 47 and in the total expenditure a decrease of Rs. 733.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

Municipalities outside Calcutta.

33. One new Municipality at Katihar, in the district of Purnea, was created during the year. The Sambalpur Municipality was transferred to Bengal from the Central Provinces, while 35 Municipalities were transferred to the jurisdiction of the new Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The high standard of collections recorded last year was well maintained during the year under review. Although, owing to the steady reduction of realisable arrears, the percentage of total collections on current demand fell from 97·4 to 96·4, the percentage of current collections on current demand rose from 93·0 to 93·7, the lowest percentage (92·5)

being in the Patna Division. The total income of Municipalities throughout the Province amounted to Rs. 49,67,128, showing an increase of Rs. 1,95,236 over that of the previous year. The total expenditure was Rs. 47,83,368 against Rs. 47,78,202 in 1904-05. The Sanitary Board has reported that the management of the water-works in those Municipalities which maintain complete installations has been generally satisfactory. In Howrah, the high level of efficiency which has always been noticeable was well maintained. The expenditure on conservancy, hospitals and dispensaries, vaccination, markets and slaughter-houses, and public institutions all showed an increase during the year under review. It is satisfactory to note from the Sanitary Commissioner's report that the conservancy arrangements in Municipalities throughout the Province continue to show steady improvement.

Calcutta Municipality.

34. Continued progress has been made in all branches of Municipal administration during the year under report. This progress may in large measure be attributed to the increased co-operation which has been effected by the appointment of Standing Committees, enabling individual members to exercise a far closer and more effective control over the work of the several Departments. Many valuable suggestions have also been received from the Committees which have received the Chairman's annual reports, and numerous and valuable improvements have resulted from the efforts of the Commissioners who have generously responded to the increased opportunities of control. The scheme of administrative devolution by the formation of four districts equipped with separate staffs of their own has also proved of great assistance to the central body.

The reforms previously effected in the Collection Department still continue to produce good results, the percentage of realisations amounting to 99·11, which falls only very slightly short of the high percentage attained last year. The reorganisation of the Accounts Department has continued to occupy the attention of the Corporation, and it is reported that all sections are now working smoothly and satisfactorily. It was also found necessary to reorganise the Building Department during the year. The beneficial results of the further reorganisation of the License Department effected in the previous year were shown by the fact that, during the year under review, the collection was in excess by Rs. 1,43,518 of that of the previous year. The working of the Assessment Department has been uniformly commended during the last three years, and the gross assessed value of the town, which amounted to Rs. 2,40,40,704 in 1902-1903, has risen to Rs. 2,83,12,920 at the end of 1906.

An entirely new departure during the year was the creation of a special Law Department. The legal work of the Corporation was previously entrusted to a firm of Solicitors, but the new system promises economy and makes legal advice more easily available.

The most important projects, with the execution of which the Corporation was concerned during the year, continued to be the Suburban drainage scheme and the improvement of the water-supply. The Suburban surface drainage scheme, estimated to cost nearly nine lakhs, has recently been sanctioned by Government, while progress was also made with the Baliaghata drainage scheme. The improvement of the filtered water-supply of the city has presented greater difficulties, and various plans have been under consideration. The enormous expense of some of the schemes proposed has rendered them impracticable, but a scheme for providing a

daily supply of 32-million gallons by increased pressure upon the mains, an elevated reservoir taking the place of the present pumping arrangement, is now being formulated. In the meantime, the construction of a new reservoir at Tallah and two new filter beds at Pulta have been approved.

The percentage of both births and deaths showed an increase on the figures for the two previous years. Cholera and plague were both severe during 1905. Small-pox, after occasioning little mortality during 1903-1904 and the greater part of 1905, assumed during December of the latter year an epidemic form, which during the first quarter of 1906 developed into an outbreak of greater severity than had been known for 20 years.

Puri Lodging-house Act.

35. The Act was not extended to any new area during the year and no amendment or alteration was made in the rules. Proposals for the amendment of the Act have been submitted by the Commissioner of Orissa and are at present under the consideration of Government. There was a further decrease in the number of licensed lodging-houses, which has fallen from 3,013 in 1902-1903 to 1,743 in the year under review. The number of persons, however, for whom accommodation was provided has not decreased in proportion. The attendance during the *Rath Jatra* and *Dol Jatra* festivals was smaller than in the previous year, only 60,000 pilgrims visiting the town, as compared with 80,000 in 1904-1905. The decrease is ascribed to the fact that the year was an inauspicious one for pilgrimage. On the whole the health of the pilgrims was good throughout the year, though there were serious outbreaks of cholera in Gaya during September and October. The number of deaths in Puri showed an increase on the figures of the previous year, though there were only 17 cases of cholera among the 60,000 pilgrims at the *Rath Jatra* and *Dol Jatra* festivals. The question of the improvement of the sanitation of Puri is still under the consideration of Government. A drainage scheme has been approved at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,70,000, and a further scheme for the improvement of the water-supply of the town is also under preparation.

District Boards.

36. Owing to the formation of the new Province, the District Boards in Bengal were reduced in number from 42 to 29, Local Boards from 104 to 77, and Union Committees from 58 to 49. One Local Board was established in the reconstituted Barrackpore subdivision. Considerable progress was made during the year. Receipts from almost al sources show an increase over those of the previous year. There was a large increase of Rs. 12,72,320 under the head of Civil Works. Under the orders of the Government of India, a grant of Rs. 8,87,000 was made from Provincial Revenues to augment the resources at the disposal of the District and Local Boards. In many instances new duties have been imposed upon the Boards without additional funds being provided to meet them, while there has been no corresponding expansion in the revenue assigned to them. The cesses are limited by law, and the other sources of revenue from ferries, pounds, and the like are small. In order to enable the Boards to expand their operations, a grant approximately equivalent to one-fourth of the revenues derived from Provincial rates was sanctioned and has been continued during the present year. The total expenditure on the improvement of the water-supply increased by 68 per cent., the increase being shared by all Divisions except Burdwan.

MARINE.

The Port of Calcutta.

37. The number of vessels arriving at and departing from the Port of Calcutta during the year 1905-1906 showed an increase of 105 over that of the previous year. The pilotage receipts improved by ·6 per cent. No serious casualties took place.

As in the previous year, there were 49 qualified pilots on the strength of the service against the sanctioned strength of 58 pilots. This number can only be worked up to as the leadsmen qualify. The death-rate among the European seamen during the year was higher than in the previous year, but kept below the quinquennial mean.

Wireless telegraphy has been established between Saugor Island and the Sandheads to the advantage of the mercantile community and the Shipping Agents. The steam pilot vessel *Fraser* has been fitted with the necessary apparatus for this purpose.

Calcutta Shipping Office.

38. The receipts of the Calcutta Shipping Office showed a slight decrease in comparison with those of last year. This has been ascribed to a decrease in the receipts from the shipping fees. While the total number of seamen shipped and discharged fell during the year, the number of European seamen employed increased.

Calcutta Port Trust.

39. The income of the Calcutta Port Trust amounted to Rs. 89,55,395 during the year 1905-1906 and the expenditure to Rs. 86,64,987. The total surplus revenue, including the accumulated balance of the previous year, stood at Rs. 31,60,501 on the 31st March 1906. Of this surplus, Rs. 25,98,384 have been set aside as a Revenue Reserve Fund; Rs. 1,51,531 have been contributed for capital outlay; Rs. 1,67,365 have been allotted to the Fire Insurance Fund and Rs. 2,43,221 have been carried forward against miscellaneous advances and outstanding earnings. The Commissioners have a Depreciation Fund for vessels and plant which closed with the amount of Rs. 8,29,392 to its credit at the end of the year. The amount to the credit of the Fire Insurance Fund at the close of the year stood at Rs. 5,99,935. The railway receipts showed a considerable increase during the year. The receipts from the wet docks declined, while the dry dock showed a surplus of Rs. 1,57,252 on the year's work.

The Ports of Orissa, Orissa Shipping Office.

40. The receipts of the Orissa ports increased during the year. The value of trade also showed an increase over last year's figures. No seamen were shipped or discharged from the False Point Shipping Office.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

AGRICULTURE.

Organisation of the Department.

41. The lines on which the Department was to be reorganised were indicated in last year's report. A detailed scheme for the development of the Department has now been prepared and is under the consideration of Government. A site for the Provincial Agricultural College has been selected at

Sabaur near Bhagalpur, the land acquired and plans of the necessary buildings prepared. It is satisfactory to note that there has been a very large increase in the number of applications for seeds and implements and a seed and implement store has been established. Steps have also been taken to form separate collections of implements, manures and seeds to be sent round, in charge of competent officers to fairs and agricultural shows, for exhibition and demonstration. The preparation of the weekly weather and crops statistics has been made over to the Department and the preparation of all rainfull statistics has also been transferred to it from the office of the Meteorologist, Calcutta.

Work of the year.

42. Experiments in the cultivation of jute were carried out on the lines indicated by the Inspector-General of Agriculture. Four special Jute farms were established in Purnea, Berhampur, Krishnagar and Chinsura. The proposed legislation to prevent the fraudulent watering of jute is still under consideration. About three-fourths of the area under jute cultivation is now included in the new Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, and information is awaited as to what action that Government proposes to take in the matter. It has been decided to abandon the experiments undertaken on the lines indicated by the Irrigation Commission, specially with regard to economy in the use of water, until it is possible to carry them out on a larger scale and at more suitable sites, where an officer of some standing can supervise the work. It is to be regretted that the experiments made to introduce superior varieties of cotton again failed, the season being very wet even for Bengal. Attempts to improve indigenous varieties of cotton by seed selection are being continued. Sites for two new experimental farms, now known as agricultural stations, have been selected, one near Patna for South Bihar and the other near Ranchi for the upland districts of Chota Nagpur. The Bengal Silk Committee continued to do useful work.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

Weather and Crops.

43. The rainfall was not favourably distributed during any of the three principal agricultural seasons. In April the weather was unsettled; in June, which was an exceptionally dry and hot month, the rainfall only amounted to a very small percentage of the normal; in August the rainfall was very unevenly distributed, causing floods in Bihar, while being deficient in Chota Nagpur, Orissa, and South-West Bengal; in February 1906 the fall was abnormally heavy all over Bengal, ranging from four to seven times the average. The year cannot thus be said to have been an altogether satisfactory one from an agricultural point of view. The estimated total area under cultivation was 42,982,800 acres, the estimated outturn amounting to 81 per cent. of the normal.

HORTICULTURE.

Horticulture.

44. Experiments were again made in the cultivation of "Sunn" hemp, and although at this early stage definite results have not been obtained, it is hoped that experimental cultivation on a larger and more satisfactory scale will eventually prove of considerable importance. Apart from the experimental side of economic work, a considerable amount of work has been accomplished during the year in the distribution of economic plants by seed or otherwise throughout India and in their introduction into other countries. Since

July 1905, owing to unavoidable circumstances, there has been no Curator of the Herbarium, and work has to a considerable extent suffered. Much, however, has been done. The number of specimens received in the Herbarium from India and other countries amounted to 6,882, the specimens distributed to other institutions amounting to about seven thousand. The condition of the Lloyd Botanic Garden was satisfactory throughout the year.

FORESTS.

Forests.

45. A considerable reduction in the area of forests under this Government was effected by the creation of the new Province. The number of forest divisions has now been reduced from 12 to 10, the Chittagong, Jalpaiguri and Buxa divisions having passed to Eastern Bengal, while Sambalpur has been transferred from the Central Provinces to this Government. In area the reduction has been very great, the area of reserves being reduced from 6,049 square miles to 4,260 square miles, while the whole area of unclassed forests amounting to 3,753 square miles has passed to the new Province. The work of the Department has been thus very considerably lightened and the charge of the Conservator has become more controllable. No Forest Survey operations were carried out during the year, the most important survey work under consideration being that of the Reserved Forests in the Sunderbans. Much progress has been made in the opening out of forests by improving the means of communication, and a larger amount than in the two preceding years was spent on roads and buildings. The number of breaches of the forest law reported is less by 326 than the average for the last three years. The year was not a favourable one for protection against fire, and the Department is to be complimented on the successful result obtained under these conditions. Of the 49 outbreaks of fire reported in the areas under special protection only four are entered as having been caused by intention or malice. The important work of protecting the forest trees against creepers was continued. Severe storms are reported as having occurred in Singhbhum and Puri resulting in considerable damage to the forests. There was, however, no frost of any great severity during the year.

MANUFACTURES, MINES AND FACTOIRES.

Manufactures.

46. The area under jute cultivation was 3,145,000 acres and the total outturn 8,200,000 bales, both showing a considerable increase over the figures of the previous year. There were 37 jute mills at work at the close of the year giving employment to 143,429 persons. The ten cotton mills turned out woven goods to the extent of 657,275 lbs. employing a daily average number of 11,765 persons in each mill. The total number of tea plantations in the Province as now constituted is 170, all of which are in the Darjeeling district, except one in Hazaribagh and twenty-one in Ranchi. The total area under cultivation was 53,024 acres. Under Indigo cultivation the total area shows a continued decline on that of the two previous years, amounting to only 170,700 acres as against 223,100 acres last year and 249,700 acres in the preceding year. The total outturn of the Cinchona Factory shows a large increase even on that of the previous year, which was the higest on record.

47. There were 246 coal mines at work during the year. The total outturn of coal was 7,234,103 tons as compared with 7,063,680 tons in the preceding year. Of the total output the Raniganj and Jherria coal fields contributed no less than 6,333,124 tons. The daily average number of people employed in the coal mines was 74,071. Mines.

48. The total number of factories at the close of the year was 185. Eleven new factories were brought under the operation of the Act during the year, while twelve factories were removed from the list. The daily average number of operatives employed was 234·725. The sanitary condition and arrangements of the factories are reported to have been satisfactory. Most of the larger factories in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions are provided with excellent and well-sanitated cooly lines for the operatives. The general health of the operatives is reported to have been good during the year under report. Factories.

TRADE.

49. The value of the seaborne trade of the Province in 1905-1906 was the highest yet recorded—112 crores of rupees. Of this total the trade of Calcutta accounts for 109 crores. The total imports into Calcutta were valued at 42 crores, and of these manufactured cotton piece-goods and yarns were the most important articles. The value of the trade under this head amounted to 21 crores, as compared with 18 crores in the previous year, or about half the total imports. The other principal articles of the import trade are iron and steel (315 lakhs), sugar (253 lakhs) and machinery and millwork (235 lakhs), each of which shews a considerable advance over the figures of the previous year. Imports of kerosine oil and woollen goods shew the largest falling off, as compared with 1904-1905, the value of the kerosine oil imported dropping from 125 lakhs to 71 lakhs, and that of woollen goods from 98 to 64 lakhs. Seventy-six per cent. of the total imports of the year came from the United Kingdom as compared with 74 per cent. in the previous year. The total value of the exports in 1905-1906 was 67 crores as compared with 61 crores in the previous year. Jute is the most important staple of the export trade, and the total value of the jute, both raw and manufactured, which was exported in 1905-1906, was 28 crores as compared with 20 crores in the previous year. Of the other principal articles of export, hides and skins (775 lakhs) shew an increase in value by 2 crores as compared with the previous year, due partly to the larger quantities shipped and partly to higher prices. Grain (630 lakhs) and oilseeds (232 lakhs) each shew a falling off of 2 crores in value. Tea (645 lakhs) shews an increase of 25 lakhs in value, and opium (702 lakhs) shews a decrease of 56 lakhs. Practically, all the rest of the foreign trade of the Province is centred at Chittagong, which imported goods valued at 30 lakhs, principally railway materials, metals, and salt, and exported goods to the value of 287 lakhs, of which tea provided 155 lakhs, and raw jute 125 lakhs. The United Kingdom is the largest importer of goods exported from Bengal, and took 28 per cent. of the whole quantity exported in 1905-1906. The United States with 16 per cent. and Germany and China with 10 per cent. each come next. Foreign Trade.

Frontier Trade. 50. The total value of the registered trans-frontier trade in 1905-1906 was 351 lakhs as compared with 270 lakhs in the previous year. About six-sevenths of this is represented by trade with Nepal, which exchanges rice and other agricultural and pastoral products for cotton goods and manufactured articles. The total value of the trade with Tibet was nearly 25 lakhs, as compared with 11½ lakhs in the previous year. The total value of the imports into Bengal from the trans-frontier countries, that is, Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan (235 lakhs), is twice as great as the value of the exports (116 lakhs) from Bengal.

Coasting Trade. 51. The total value of the coasting trade of Bengal during the year was 15 crores, 7 crores representing imports and 8 crores exports. The chief items of imports are kerosine oil (99 lakhs) and teak (50 lakhs) from Burma, and cotton manufactures (73 lakhs), chiefly from Bombay. Coal and jute manufactures are the largest items in the export trade.

Rail and Riverborne Trade. 52. The imports into Calcutta from the rest of Bengal and other Provinces amounted to 76 crores in 1905-1906, as compared with 64 crores in the previous year. Jute, coal and rice were the principal articles of this trade. The rest of Bengal received goods valued at nearly 9 crores from other provinces, which is rather less than in the previous year. The goods exported from Calcutta to the Bengal mufassal and to other provinces were valued at 43 crores, as compared with 40 crores in the previous year. Cotton goods, metals, sugar and salt were the principal items in this trade. The rest of Bengal sent goods valued at nearly 9 crores to other provinces, of which coal was the most important article.

BUILDINGS.

Imperial Works. 53. Owing to the accommodation in Government House and its attached buildings being insufficient for present requirements, land and buildings were acquired in the vicinity in order to provide the much-needed additional accommodation. As no room is available in any of the Imperial Secretariat buildings for the new Department of Commerce and Industry, land was acquired near the present Secretariat buildings for the purpose of constructing an office for that Department.

Provincial Works. 54. The needs of the High Court and the Civil and Criminal Courts in the Province continued to receive attention. Good progress was made with the new Presidency Jail at Alipore, while materials were collected for constructing a third class District Jail at Howrah in place of the present sub-jail. Police Training Schools for constables were established at Bhagalpur and Purulia. Several works in connection with hospitals and dispensaries were constructed or in progress in Calcutta and at other stations throughout the Province. Adequate attention was given during the year to the housing of Government officials.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Communications. 55. The lighting of the Calcutta Maidan was improved at important road junctions. The metalling from the 1st to the 10th mile of the Tista-Rishi road was completed during the year. The survey of the Bengal-Tibet Road was also completed.

RAILWAYS.

Administration.

56. This Government in some measure controls seven small Railways which have been constructed by private enterprise. The larger Railway systems are administered by the Railway Board and the Government of India.

Mileage.

57. The total mileage of Railways in this Province on the 31st April 1906 was 3,882 miles. During the year 148·25 miles were opened, of which 94·75 miles were on the standard gauge and 47·75 on the metre-gauge.

Lines purchased.

58. The Bengal Central Railway was purchased by the State and now forms part of the Eastern Bengal State Railway System.

Surveys.

59. No main lines are at present under survey in this Province, but the Bengal and North-Western Railway are about to survey for several branch lines in the Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga and Monghyr districts.

Light Railways.

60. There was no extension during the year, but schemes are under consideration for short extensions of the Howrah-Amta line and of the Baraset-Basirhat line.

CANALS.

Irrigation.

61. The Major Irrigation Works in Bengal are divided into two classes:—

I. Productive works. | II. Protective works.

Productive Works.

62. The Productive works comprise the Orissa, Midnapore, Hijili Tidal and Sone Canals. The Hijili Tidal Canal is for navigation only; while the others are both for irrigation and navigation. The total area irrigated by these canals during the year 1905-1906 was 812,208 acres or 11,873 acres more than in the previous year.

Receipts.

63. The total receipts during the year from irrigation, navigation and miscellaneous sources aggregated Rs. 21,33,846 or Rs. 93,211 more than the receipts for the previous year.

Protective Works.

64. The Protective works are the Tribeni and Dhaka Canals. The latter canal, a small work deriving its supply from the Lal Bakeya river in the Champaran district, is nearing completion and some irrigation was effected during the year. The progress of work on the Tribeni Canal was not satisfactory. There is still much difficulty in procuring labour.

EMBANKMENTS AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

Embankments and drainage.

65. The total length of the flood embankments maintained during the year was 2,142 miles or 10 miles less than the length maintained in the previous year. The decrease is chiefly due to the transfer to the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam of embankments in the districts of Rajshahi, Malda, Pabna and Bogra. The total expenditure incurred on embankments and drainage works was Rs. 6,82,520, of which Rs. 4,26,097 were spent on embankments.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

IMPERIAL FINANCE.

Statistics.

66. The Imperial receipts amounted to Rs. 14,09,09,964 and the charges to Rs. 3,42,94,004, in both cases showing a decrease on the figures of the previous year. The decrease in receipts was most noticeable under the heads "Land Revenue," "Opium," "Salt" and "Stationery and Printing," the largest increase being under "Customs." There was a marked decrease in expenditure under the heads "Opium" and "Stationery and Printing," the latter having now been transferred to the Government of India. The chief increase in expenditure was under "Land Revenue" attributed to increased survey charges in Chota Nagpur and Settlement charges in Bihar.

LAND REVENUE.

Land Revenue.

67. The total current demand amounted to Rs. 2,85,84,038, showing an increase in all classes of estates as compared with last year. The increase was small in permanently-settled estates. In temporarily-settled estates and estates held direct by Government, the increase was considerable and was due chiefly to settlements of new estates, resettlements and progressive increase of revenue. The total collections, current and arrear, amounting to Rs. 2,86,56,581 were 97·44 per cent. of the total and 100·25 per cent. of the current demand as against 97·00 and 99·65 per cent. respectively in the previous year.

CUSTOMS.

Customs.

68. High as was the aggregate total value of the previous year's trade of the Presidency of Bengal, it has been surpassed in the year under review by 7·4 per cent., and a fresh record has been established. There has been an increase both in the foreign and coasting trade, the rise in the former amounting to 5·5 per cent., and in the latter to 19·8 per cent. In the foreign trade imports of gold and silver and exports of foreign merchandise and silver contracted in value, but all else expanded considerably. In the coasting trade the fluctuations were on a smaller scale. There was a falling off in imports of foreign merchandise and gold, but all descriptions of exports were larger. Calcutta absorbed 97·2 per cent. of the total foreign and 90·3 per cent. of the total coasting trade of the Province. The net income of the Custom House did not reach so high a total as in the previous year, being less than the latter by over 39½ lakhs.

Merchandise Marks Act.

69. Cases under the Merchandise Marks Act showed a remarkable decline on the figures of the previous year to the extent of 41 per cent. This was partly owing to the large number of cases detected in the previous year which has evidently exercised a deterrent effect. The only change of importance in the Act during the year was the order issued by the Government of India in the Department of Commerce and Industry to the effect that

yarns imported into India should no longer be tested at the port of importation.

OPIUM.

Opium.

70. In the Bihar Agency 340,149 bighas were settled, as compared with 344,730 bighas in the previous year, the decrease being accounted for in great measure by the relinquishment of unproductive lands, a policy which the Board fully support. In the Benares Agency the area engaged for showed a considerable decrease on that of the previous year, but the settlements for 1903 were exceptional, and the figures for 1904 represent a return to normal conditions. The year was an abnormal one throughout the Bihar Agency, and the conditions varied greatly from district to district. The unfavourable weather conditions were responsible for a decrease in the average consistence of the outturn of the Bihar Agency, which only amounted to 72·77 as compared with 74·68 in the preceding year. The average consistence for Benares was again low this year. The total outturn of opium during the year was 1,04,537 maunds.

SALT.

Salt.

71. Revised proposals in connection with the sanctioned scheme for the reorganisation of the Salt Department were approved by the Supreme Government during the year and preventive operations were accordingly begun with the commencement of the active season in October 1905 in the several districts. In Midnapore, the 24-Parganas, Noakhali and Khulna, preventive operations were carried on under the control of the Collectors who were vested with the powers of an Assistant Commissioner under the Indian Salt Act, XII of 1882. At the commencement of the year the stock of salt in all golas, both public and private, amounted to 22,35,689 maunds, being over a lakh of maunds more than on the 1st April 1904. The quantity of salt imported, however, showed a decline of nearly $6\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of maunds. The clearances were larger than in the previous year by more than $1\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs. There are only two inland bonded warehouses in Bengal since the creation of the New Province, both of which are situated at Chandbali. The total quantity of salt despatched from Calcutta amounted to over 99 lakhs of maunds, showing an increase of 1·6 per cent. over that of last year.

EXCISE.

Excise revenue.

72. The Committee, appointed by the Government of India to consider the progress of excise administration in respect of intoxicating liquors and to promote reforms, visited the province during the year and held sittings in Calcutta, Bankipore, Darjeeling, Cuttack and Burdwan. Their report had not been submitted by the close of the year. Of the gross demand of Rs. 1,53,49,285, a sum of Rs. 1,53,18,436 or 99·7 per cent. was realised. Taking the population of Bengal according to the last census at 51 millions, the incidence of the excise revenue of the year is 4 annas 9 pies per head, against 4 annas 5 pies in the previous year. There has been a net increase of over $6\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs from settlements, shared by all the Divisions except Bhagalpur, and generally attributable to favourable crop prospects and free competition among bidders. There was an increase in the number of persons arrested

for offences against the Excise and Opium laws during the year under review. The number of persons imprisoned, however, shows a decrease of one on that of the previous year.

STAMPS.

Stamps.

73. The revenue collected under the Stamp and Court-fees Act amounted to Rs. 1,41,83,281 against Rs. 1,35,57,869 in the previous year. This considerable increase of over 6 lakhs was obtained both from judicial and non-judicial stamps. The number of cases instituted for the infringement of the provisions of the Stamp Act was 667 as compared with 295 cases in the previous year. The increase was especially marked in Calcutta, where special measures have been recently adopted for the detection of offences.

INCOME-TAX.

Income-Tax.

74. The net revenue of the year amounted to Rs. 44,96,664, showing an increase of 6·7 per cent as compared with an increase of 1·9 per cent. in 1904-05. The collections on the profits of Companies showed a noticeable increase of 34·6 per cent. over those of the previous year. The large increase is attritutable chiefly to the prosperity of the Jute Manufacturing and Banking Companies in Calcutta. Outside Calcutta the receipts from Companies were largest in Darjeeling owing principally to increased profits derived by the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway Company. The percentage of collections on the final demand on account of tax for the year was 97·07 as compared with 97·2 during the year 1904-05. The districts of Birbhum, Bankura, Champaran, Cuttack, Sambalpur, Puri, Ranchi and Palamau succeeded in collecting the entire demand within the year. It is satisfactory to note that the prescribed standard was attained in every district throughout the Province.

FOREST REVENUE.

Forest Revenue.

75. The receipts from forests for the year 1905-06 amounted to Rs. 9,90,281, as compared with Rs. 9,70,904 in the previous year, these figures excluding the Jalpaiguri, Buxa and Chittagong Divisions, which have been transferred to the new Province, and including those of the Sambalpur Division, which has been added to Bengal from the Central Provinces. Angul and Tista are the only two Divisions shown as having been worked at a deficit, and even here the deficit is more apparent than real. The financial results shown by the Sundarbans Division are especially satisfactory. Besides expending only 28 per cent. of its receipts it furnishes no less than 45 per cent. of the revenue of the whole circle. The regularising of the work and the introduction of the monopoly sale system have so improved matters that the period of its administrative uncertainty may be considered to be a thing of the past. The revenue during the year increased by Rs. 51,000. Next in importance comes Singhbhum, where large sums of money are being spent in opening out inaccessible areas and where too the monopoly system of sales has been lately introduced. The total revenue and surplus showed a considerable increase. In Puri the revenue has increased by no less than 33 per cent.

PROVINCIAL FINANCE.

Provincial Finance.

76. The year opened with a balance of Rs. 1,20,00,000 and closed with one of Rs. 1,10,55,000, the result being a deficit of Rs. 19,45,000. The receipts amounted to Rs. 5,16,03,000 as against Rs. 5,18,98,948 in 1904-05, and the charges were Rs. 5,35,48,000 as against Rs. 5,31,51,766 in the preceding year. There was an increase in receipts under Land Revenue, partly accounted for by unexpected receipts from the sale of Government estates in Patna, Puri and Hooghly. The increase in expenditure under the same head was partly under charges of District Administration and partly under management of Government estates. There was no increase in expenditure of special note during the year under review.

LOCAL FINANCE.

Local Finance.

77. The total receipts of the Incorporated Local Funds amounted to Rs. 1,08,37,363 and the charges to Rs. 68,70,672. The closing balance was Rs. 39,66,691. The total receipts of the Excluded Local Funds were Rs. 15,01,972 and the charges to Rs. 11,01,393, the closing balance amounting to Rs 4,00,579. The Patwari Fund and the Police Remount Fund were brought on the Bengal books along with the accounts of Sambalpur. The payments of the Hospital Port Dues Fund, Calcutta, included a special contribution of two lakhs to the Presidency General Hospital, of Rs. 25,000 to the Dufferin Hospital and of Rs. 4,405 to the Hospital Nurses' Association.

ROAD AND PUBLIC WORKS CESSES

Statistics.

78. Both cesses were levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee in the thirty districts of the Province in which the Cess Act IX (B.C.) of 1880 is in force The provisions of the Act were extended during the year to all parts of the Sonthal Parganas to which they had not been previously in force, and the levy of cesses in this district began for the first time from the beginning of the year and then only in a few States of which the settlement had been completed. The Act is not in force in Angul and the Khondmals or in Sambalpur. The current demand of land revenue for the thirty districts was Rs. 2,82,99,982; the valuation of gross rental amounted to Rs. 17,64,57,129. The increase of Rs. 6,045 in the current demand as compared with the previous year was due to revaluations. In collections there was an increase of more than half a lakh in spite of the large increase in the previous year.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Vital Statistics.

79. The year under review cannot be regarded as having been a healthy one. The peculiar weather conditions, very low temperature and excessive rainfall during the pre-monsoon period, abnormal heat in June

and the early cessation of the monsoon are reflected in the vital statistics of the year. A considerable rise has taken place in the general mortality of the Province, the number of deaths registered being 1,922·369 or 38·53 per mille, which is the highest rate recorded during the last twenty years. The districts of Gaya, Patna, Shahabad and Saran were the worst sufferers with death rates of over 50 per mille, while the healthiest districts were Singhbhum, Ranchi, and Manbhum. There was also a large increase in the mortality among infants, which rose to 310 per mille in Calcutta. The mortality from cholera was the highest on record since 1901. Mortality from fever also showed an increase although it is satisfactory to note that in Calcutta it fell as low as 5·13 per mille. The prevalence of malaria in Bengal has for many years engaged the attention of Government, and a small Committee has now been appointed to enquire into the conditions of the Presidency Division, where it is especially prevalent, and to ascertain if the cause of the disease is attributable to obstructed drainage, as suspected, and, if so, to decide whether comprehensive drainage schemes are practicable and to prepare a list of such schemes in order of urgency. Considerable activity has been displayed elsewere by many Municipalities in the administration of the various branches of Sanitation, and many drainage schemes were in various stages of progress.

PLAGUE.

Plague.

80. The mortality from plague again shows an increase, and during the year under review it was the highest on record since it first broke out in 1898. The total number of deaths was no less than 126,084 as against 75,433 in the previous year. As usual the period of greatest prevalence was from January to April, reaching a climax in the month of March, during which month almost a third of the total number of deaths throughout the year were registered. In Calcutta, there was an alarming recrudesence of the disease which had shown so considerable a decline in the previous year. Outside Calcutta no less than 26 districts were more or less affected, the highest mortality being recorded in the district of Saran. Increased importance, in the opinion of experts in India regarding plague, is now ascribed to the part played by rats in spreading and keeping alive the disease. In fact all the evidence regarding the causation of plague is now reported as pointing to the rat as the chief agent of its diffusion. During the year under review rat extermination was carried on in many parts of the Province with noticeably good results.

EMIGRATION.

Colonial Emigration.

81. There were seven Emigration Agencies at work during the year, of which six represented British Colonies and one the Dutch Colony of Surinam. The number of emigrants registered shows an increase of fifty per cent. over that of the previous year. The bad harvests and the consequent rise in the price of food grains in the recruiting districts largely contributed to this result. The Colonies which received the largest number of emigrants were Demerara and Trinidad. During the year 4,703 emigrants returned to India, bringing with them savings

amounting on an average to Rs. 171-13-4 per head. It is noteworthy that the percentage of money saved in Trinidad is far in excess of that saved in any other Colony, while as in previous years, the labourers in Natal sent the largest remittances by money-order, the total amount so sent being nearly 14 lakhs.

Inland Emigration.

82. There has been an increase in the number of all classes of emigrants, the increase being most marked in the number of emigrants recruited under the free system. In Bengal, excluding Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal Parganas, which are closed to free recruitment, the number of emigrants despatched under section 92 of the Act was almost double what it was in 1904-05, while the number recruited by licensed contractors and garden sardars under Chapters III and IV is considerably less, the variation being apparently due to the fact that recruiters find it easier and more profitable to carry on business under the free system. There has also been an increase in the number of emigrants recruited in Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal Parganas, which is attributed to bad crops and the exceptionally high price of food grains.

Inland Labour Transport Fund.

83. The Inland Labour Transport Fund still continues to be in an unsatisfactory condition, but the actual deficit was less than in previous years owing largely to the transfer of the emigration establishments at Goalundo and Chandpur to the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The Government of India in September 1905 sanctioned the temporary abolition, and have recently consented to the permanent abolition, of the post of Travelling Superintendent of Emigration of Bengal and the Central Provinces.

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

Calcutta Institutions.

84. The remodelling and moderniaztion of the important General Hospitals in Calcutta to which reference was made in last year's report are progressing. Much has already been done to improve the equipment, comforts and convenience of the patients. The nursing arrangements were generally satisfactory, though the staff of the Medical College will have to be increased to meet adequately the increased requirements of the hospital as a whole. There was an increase in the number of indoor patients, which is accounted for by the unhealthiness of the year under review as compared with the previous year. The outdoor attendance increased in the majority of institutions, a satisfactory result which testifies to the growing appreciation on the part of the people of the benefits they confer. By far the largest increase of 4,185 patients took place at the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital, which is rapidly growing in popularity. Small-pox, cholera, plague, dysentery and diarrhœa were all prevalent in Calcutta in 1905, and there was an increase in the numbers of those suffering from these diseases treated in hospitals.

Mufassal Dispensaries.

85. Sixteen new Dispensaries were opened during the year, of which three were in the Burdwan district and three in the Sonthal Parganas. The number of indoor patients showed a considerable increase, due partly to the unhealthiness of the year and partly to the increasing popularity of these institutions. The increase in the number of outdoor patients was even more striking, showing an increase of 11·98 per cent. on that of the previous year. As an instance of a most successful outdoor department,

the Banwari Lal Hospital at Laheria Serai again heads the list with 62,977 admissions during the year. One of the chief features in connection with mufassal dispensaries is the large number of women now taking advantage of hospital treatment, a satisfactory result of the efforts made in this province to popularise public dispensaries among a class which it has hitherto been difficult to reach.

Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling.

86. The number of patients which since 1901 has been gradually declining shows a further decline this year. No reason has been assigned by the Superintendent for this decrease, but it may be due to recent improvements in connection with other hill stations where the climate is drier than that of Darjeeling. The income of the institution is less than in the previous year, while the expenditure shows an increase, a result which cannot be regarded as satisfactory. Many useful improvements were, however, effected during the year. The new nurses' quarters sanctioned last year will be taken in hand shortly.

Lunatic Asylums.

87. The scheme for the establishment of a large Central Lunatic Asylum at Ranchi has now taken shape; land has been already acquired and the plans and estimates of the buildings to be erected are now under the consideration of Government. The further question of a Central Asylum at Ranchi for the reception of European lunatics from Northern India is now under the consideration of the Government of India in consultation with other Local Governments. There is an evident tendency for the asylum population to increase, the admissions growing in number year by year, while discharges remain more or less stationary. This increase, however, is to be attributed very largely to the greater confidence now felt in these institutions by the general public. The total asylum population of Bengal for 1905 was 844.

SANITATION.

Sanitation.

88. During the year various sanitary works were carried out in different parts of the province by Municipalities, District Boards and private individuals. Some of the most important were in connection with the improvement of drainage systems and water-supply. The sanitary works introduced by District Boards consisted mainly of preventive measures against plague, cholera and other epidemic diseases, sanitary arrangements at fairs and *melas*, and improvement of village sanitation by clearance of jungle, excavations of roadside drains and filling up of hollows containing stagnant water. Praiseworthy efforts have been made by several District Boards, notably that of Patna, to cleanse villages and rural towns by the removal of filth and rank vegetation and the filling up of ditches and disused tanks.

VACCINATION.

Vaccination.

89. The figures show a considerable increase in the number of operations performed during the year, both in primary cases and in re-vaccinations, the latter being largely due to the special efforts made by the Corporation of Calcutta to re-vaccinate as many persons as possible owing to the late severe outbreak of small-pox in that town. The good results of the reforms recently introduced into the Department have already begun to be felt. The system of granting rewards to vaccinators has already stimulated them to greater activity in their

work and complaints of non-realisation of fees by vaccinators are becoming less frequent. Antiseptic vaccination has already produced good results in the districts where it has been introduced, and now that a regular system of training is to be given to vaccinators, it is desirable to introduce it generally throughout the Province.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

Administration.

90. The preparation of the new regulations under the Indian Universities Act, 1904, and the inspection of Arts Colleges by the Special Commission appointed for the purpose were the two most important events of 1905-06. The new regulations were not, however, approved by Government till after the close of the year.

A scheme was sanctioned during the year by the Secretary of State for strengthening considerably the inspecting agency, and when funds permit of the scheme being brought into operation, a much needed relief will be afforded. There is also a pressing need for a large increase in the professorial staff of the colleges, on which the Commision recently appointed by the Calcutta University to inspect colleges laid special stress. The staff has lately been increased by the appointment of three additional Assistant Inspectresses, but more are required. The sanction of the Secretary of State was received during the year to a scheme for the reorganisation of the Provincial and Subordinate Educational Services and the creation of a Lower Subordinate Educational Service. The pay and prospect of all officers of these Services have been considerably improved by this measure which will undoubtedly make for greater efficiency. The Presidency College, which is considerably the largest college and in certain respects the best equipped in Calcutta, is seriously overcrowded, and proposals are now under consideration either for largely extending the college on its present site or removing it to another site in the neighbourhood of Calcutta.

Statistics.

91. The result of the last Entrance Examination was very disappointing, the percentage of successes being only 26·4, and the subject is now under the consideration of a special Committee appointed by the Senate. There has been but little variation as regards expenditure. While the number of Secondary schools declined by 8, the number of pupils attending them increased by 2,422. The revision of the vernacular scheme of education is now in progress. It is hoped that the Training Colleges for teachers in High and Secondary schools which are shortly to be opened will work a revolution in the method of teaching. There was an increase of 1·1 per cent. and 2·1 per cent. respectively in the number of Primary schools and scholars. Industrial schools increased during the year from 30 to 41. It is satisfactory to note that the reaction in Muhammadan education reported last year has been arrested, and the increase of 3 per cent. in the number of Muhammadans attending all classes of educational institutions is encouraging. A strong forward movement is being made in regard to the provision of hostel and mess accommodation for students of all Classes,

and there is good reason to believe that they will eventually prove of the greatest benefit to students. The number of hostels increased from 310 to 377 and the number of inmates from 9,478 to 11,424.

REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.

Reformatory Schools.

92. The number of boys admitted to the Reformatory schools in 1905 was 95, the lowest figure reached since 1898. The health of the inmates of both the schools at Alipore and Hazaribagh was satisfactory. There was a marked decrease in the number of punishments inflicted, especially at Alipore. Due attention was paid to gymnastics, drill and games at both schools, and the band which was formed at Alipore in July 1905 has made fair progress. Boys belonging to agricultural castes were as before sent to Hazaribagh, where special attention is paid to the subjects of cultivation and market gardening. Out of the 129 boys in this school, 64 were enagaged in these pursuits. The results of the system appear to be satisfactory. The industrial training given to the boys at Alipore, on the other hand, has not proved altogether successful. At the latter school, out of 210 boys released during the three years preceding 1905, only 25 were found to be engaged in the trade in which they had received instruction at school. In 1905, the total number of boys under license from this school was 71, of whom 11 ran away from their employers and 11 were sent back to school for bad conduct and laziness.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

Literature and the Press.

93. The number of publications received and catalogued in the Bengal Library during 1905 was 2,800 against 3,054 in the previous year. Of these 1,836 were books and 964 periodicals. The literature of the year clearly indicates the fact that political, social and industrial questions are those which are attracting special attention at the present time, and that the spirit of journalism pervades all branches of literature. The higher and quieter walks of literature have been in a large measure deserted in favour of the noisy ways of politics and in less degree the paths of social and industrial reform. The year, however, has not been entirely devoid of literary work of a less ephemeral character.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

Archæology.

94. Work in connection with the Black Padoga at Kanarak was continued during the year.

CHAPTER IX.

ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN, CALCUTTA.

Zoological Garden.

95. The most important events of the year were the visit of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales to the garden on January 1st, 1906, and the transportation and reception of over fifty animals belonging to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, prior to their departure for

the Zoological Society's Garden, London. The attendance of visitors during the year was the largest yet recorded, showing a daily average of 1,157. The financial condition of the garden was consequently exceptionally good.

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

Veterinary Department.

96. The total number of students on the roll of the Bengal Veterinary College at the close of the year under report was 106 as against 85 in the previous year. The number would have been larger had not some of the students left the college after admission owing to the want of sufficient accommodation in the hostel attached to it. Funds have already been allotted for the construction of a new hostel and steps are being taken to carry out the work as quickly as possible. The results of the final and annual class examinations were not so satisfactory as last year. This result was mainly due to the inadequacy of the teaching staff of the College throughout the year and to some extent to the inferior educational qualifications of the students admitted. To remove the first of these causes a second Imperial Officer has been added to the teaching staff, and to remove the second, a rule has been laid down that only students who have passed the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University or who have completed the High School Course or who can produce certificates of having received an education equivalent to either of these two standards shall be eligible for admission to the College. There has been a general increase in the number of animals treated in Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries during the year, and there is every indication of the growing popularity of the scientific mode of treatment offered at these institutions. The Veterinary Infirmary at Belgachia continues to make good progress.

PART II.

THE REPORT.

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ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1905-1906.

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

CHAPTER I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

For—

PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY, AREA, CLIMATE AND CHIEF STAPLES.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY.

FORM OF ADMINISTRATION.

CHARACTER OF LAND TENURES, SYSTEM OF SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS.

CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY.

DETAILS OF THE LAST CENSUS, TRIBES AND LANGUAGES.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II, PAGES 1—160.

Changes in the Administration.

Changes in the formation of the Province.

THE year under review was a notable one as effecting considerable changes in the administration of the Province. On 16th October 1905, the Commissionerships of Dacca, Chittagong and Rajshahi (except the district of Darjeeling) and the district of Malda were separated from Bengal to form a portion of the new Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The district of Darjeeling was attached to the Bhagalpur Commissionership, from which the district of Malda was taken to form part of the Rajshahi Commissionership in the new Province. At the same time the district of Sambalpur (except the Chandarpur-Padampur Estate and the Phuljhar zamindari) and the five Uriya-speaking States of Patna, Kalahandi, Sonpur, Bamra and Rehrakhol were detached from the Central Provinces of which they had hitherto formed a part and added to the Orissa Division. In return, Bengal handed over to the Central Provinces the five native States of Jashpur, Sirguja, Udaipur, Korea and Changbhakar which formed a solid block of territory with a Hindi-speaking population.

Minor changes.

2. Among minor changes within the Province itself, the two Uriya-speaking native States of Bonai and Gangpur were transferred from Chota Nagpur to the Orissa Division, to which linguistically they are more nearly allied. A new subdivision was created in the Ranchi district known as the Khunti subdivision. It has been decided to transfer the head-quarters of the Gobindpur subdivision from Gobindpur to Dhanbaid where land has been already acquired and the erection of the necessary subdivisional buildings taken in hand.

Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

SIKKIM.

[Area, 2,818 miles; chief products, timber, rice, wheat, barley, maize and cardamoms; population, 59,014; revenue, Rs. 1,77,251; present Maharaja, Thutop Namgyal; born, 1860; family of Tibetan origin; residence Gangtok; has male heir, Maharaj Kumar Sidkyong Tulku.]

3. One of the most important events of the year was the passage through the State of the Tashi Lama and his suite on the occasion of their journey to India to meet Their Royal Highnesse the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the visit of the Maharaja, Maharani and Maharaj Kumar of Sikkim to Calcutta for the same purpose. The visit of the Tashi Lama created an immense sensation among the Buddhist population, large numbers coming into Gangtok to receive his blessing. The Maharaja and Maharani also visited Benares and Bodh Gaya before returning to Sikkim. The year was, on the whole, a prosperous one for the State. The weather was normal, the rainfall being 13·103 inches as against 128·14 in the previous year. The staple crop is maize, other important crops being rice, murwa and buckwheat. Barley, wheat, potatoes, and sweet-potatoes are grown but not to any large extent. Oranges were plentiful, selling at 400 to 800 to the rupee, and the apple crop in the Lachen and Lachung valleys and in the State gardens has phenominally large. The people are almost entirely agriculturists. A very small proportion earn a living by daily labour on public works and in domestic service. Skilled labour such as carpenters and smiths is imported. There are no local industries. Wages were good, and compared with prevailing rates in the neighbouring States of Nepal, Bhutan and Tibet, they were high and considerably better than in India. The prices of food-grains were generally higher than in the previous year, owing to the partial failure of the maize crop. There are valuable timber forests in the State, but owing to the lack of good roads and transport facilities it is difficult to bring the timber into the markets and dispose of it at a profit. During the year 10,000 sleepers and a quantity of sâl scantlings were cut for the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway. Trade with the neighbouring States is small. Sheep and cattle are imported from Nepal; salt, sheep, wool, blankets, rugs, and coarse woollen cloths from Tibet; and cotton and woollen goods of European manufacture, rice, salt, dâl, flour, sugar, spices, cigarettes, tobacco, kerosine oil, betelnut, mustard oil, ironware, iron, brass and copper sheets, gold, silver, and glassware from India. The exports are maize, potatoes, oranges, apples, butter, murwa seed, hides, sheep, woollen cloth (tweeds) and blankets, aconite and timber to India; and murwa dyes, pork, rice and oranges to Tibet. The development of the mineral resources of the country by European agency, which has the approval of the Government of India, will, it is anticipated, greatly enhance the revenue of the State in the near future. Immigration from Nepal is steadily increasing and is encouraged by all classes, as the Nepalese raiyat is hardworking and thrifty, as well as intelligent and law abiding. There has been practically no emigration during the year. The finances of the State continue satisfactory. There has been an increase in expenditure under the heads of Administration, Agriculture, Forests, Public Instruction, Survey, Medical, Domestic Charges and Debts. There are two dispensaries in the State maintained by the Darbar,—one at Gangtok and the other at Chidam. The public health was, on the whole, good. Education still continues in a backward state. In Gangtok there are now two schools—the older Paharia school and the new Boarding School for Bhutias and Lepchas. In Lachung an elementary school was opened under the auspicies of the Scandinavian Alliance Mission, for which a grant-in-aid of Rs. 200 a year has been sanctioned. The police force consisted of 40 men, mostly Nepalese, and proved efficient in the maintenance of order. Its record in the detection of crime was good. There was only one jail in Sikkim, at Gangtok, containing only eight prisoners at the close of the year.

BHUTAN.

4. The control of Bhutan was taken over by the Government of India before the commencement of the year under review.

COOCH BEHAR.

[Area 1,307 square miles; chief products, rice, jute and tobacco; population, 566,974; revenue, Rs. 24,15,679; military force, 294 men and four field guns; present Chief, Colonel His Highness Maharaja Sir Nripendra Narain Bhup Bahadur, G.C.I.E., C.B.; family of Tibetan or Dravidian origin; residence, Cooch Behar; male heir, Maharaj-Kumar Raj Rajendra Narain.]

5. The Council of State held 25 sittings on its Judicial side, against 48 last year. Seven cases were pending before the Council at the close of the year. On its Legislative and Executive side it held 30 meetings as against 40 last year. During the year under report, Act I of 1905, amending the Cooch-Behar Stamp Act I of 1903 and Act II of 1905 (Cooch Behar Unclaimed and Intestate Property Act) and Act I of 1906 (Cooch Behar Encumbered Estates Act) were passed and Bill No. II of 1905 (the Cooch Behar Evidence Act Amendment Act) was introduced.

6. The generally prosperous condition of the people has not been disturbed during the year under report. The rainfall was large, but it was unevenly distributed. The outturn of the principal crops, therefore, fell somewhat below the average. This deficiency, however, was more than made up by the unusual rise in the prices of articles of produce and particularly in that of jute. There was unusual briskness in the jute trade resulting in a large increase in the toll collection. There was no marked epidemic save an outbreak of cholera in October. Fever was most prevalent in November and December which is unusual. Efforts to improve the drainage of the town of Cooch Behar are still in progress and it is hoped that before long a comprehensive scheme for raising the lowlying lands and filling up the small tanks and holes, which abound in and near the town, may be adopted. The vagaries of the Torsa river are again causing some anxiety. Three years ago the main river passed close by the town and thence under the railway bridge, the safety of which was threatened. Expensive protective works were consequently carried out. Now the river has practically deserted this channel and the main stream has flowed into the Rashidanga channel. Recent investigation shows that if this continues little or no water will pass along the channel by the town, yet no steps can at present be devised to prevent it. Several original works of public utility were undertaken by the Public Works Department, the original sanctioned grant of which was Rs. 1,30,087. There were 434½ miles of banked and bridged roads in the State, of which 8½ were metalled. The total number of cognisable and non-cognisable cases reported during the year amounted to 3,329 and the number of persons brought to trial to 2,532. There was practically no heinous crime during the year under report. Only twelve persons were committed to the Court of Sessions, of whom eight were convicted, and three released, one remaining pending. At the close of the year there were 327 Primary and Secondary schools in the State, with a roll call and daily average attendance of 11,728 and 7,859, against 11,647 and 8,003 respectively in the previous year. There were seven Lower Primary Girls' schools with 105 pupils on the rolls. The total expenditure on Primary and Secondary schools was Rs. 43,383-8-11, of which the State paid Rs. 20,400-5-6, the remainder being made up from contributions from several local sources. During the year 239 students were admitted into the General Department of the Victoria College. At the close of the year the number on the roll was 251, against 260 in the preceding year. The total expenditure of the college amounted to Rs. 24,559-3-3. The number of pupils in the Jenkins School was 419. Two scholarships for scientific and industrial education were granted during the year to enable two candidates to go to Japan. The Medical Department continues to do useful work. The number of Hospitals and Dispensaries remained the same as in the previous year. The total number of patients treated during the year was 32,141, of whom as many as 31,099 were out-patients. The total revenue of the State amounted to Rs. 24,15,679, which exceeds by Rs. 56,321, the revenue of the previous year if the sale proceeds of the Simla property and furniture be excluded from the latter. The main increase in the revenue is found under the heads Household, Land Revenue, Stamps and Excise. The total expenditure of the year was Rs. 23,30,870, against Rs. 23,83,058 of the previous year. There was a large decrease of Rs. 89,938 under Household. In consequence of the Partition of Bengal and the transfer of the Rajshahi Division to Eastern Bengal and Assam, the

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

Commissioner of Bhagalpur in Bengal was appointed *ex-officio* Political Agent of Cooch Behar in place of the Commissioner of Rajshahi.

HILL TIPPERA.

7. The control of this State passed to the new Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam on the 16th of October 1905.

POLITICAL STATES OF CHOTA NAGPUR.

[Consisting of two States—Seraikela and Kharsawan. Total population, 141,079. The States have no military force of their own, but the subordinate tenures are of a feudal nature.]

8. Of the nine native States which were formerly under the control of the Commissioner of Chota Nagpur, five, viz., Sirguja, Jashpur, Udaipur, Korea and Changbhakar, were transferred with effect from the 16th of October 1905 to the Central Provinces, and the two Uriya-speaking States of Bonai and Gangpur to the Orissa Division. Seraikela and Kharsawan are thus the only two States left under the control of the Commissioner of Chota Nagpur.

The State of Seraikela was in charge of its Chief. The administration of the State of Kharsawan owing to the minority of its Chief was still carried on under the Commissioner's supervision by a manager appointed by Government. The area of Seraikela is 449 square miles with a population of 104,539 according to the last census and a total revenue from all sources of Rs. 1,05,629. Kharsawan is 153 square miles in extent and its population amounts to 36,540, its total revenue being Rs. 40,010. The health of the people of both States was generally good. There were no epidemics during the year. The material condition of all classes was satisfactory. The rainfall was insufficient for the rice crops in June, August and October, and the outturn was thus below the normal. The weather, however, was favourable for the *bhadoi* crops. The total expenditure on dispensaries showed an increase in both States. There was no change during the year in the number of police entertained. There are two police stations and two outposts in Seraikela and one police station and one outpost in Kharsawan. The total number of cases brought to trial, including those pending at the close of the previous year, was 456 with 1,097 persons, as against 449 with 1,213 persons in the preceding year. There were only five criminal appeals instituted during the year, in each case the sentence of the Lower Court being confirmed. There are no post offices in Seraikela and Kharsawan. There were 26 schools in Seraikela and 15 in Kharsawan at the close of the year, the total number of scholars in both States being 1,144. The Jubaraj of Seraikela is being educated in the Chaibassa Zilla School. The minor Chief of Kharsawan is continuing his studies at the Raj Kumar College, Raipur, Central Provinces. Favourable reports are received of both.

TRIBUTARY AND FEUDATORY STATES OF ORISSA.

[These now consist of the seventeen Tributary Mahals of Orissa together with the five States of Bamra, Kalahandi, Patna, Rehrakhol and Sonpur, from the Central Provinces and Bonai and Gangpur from Chota Nagpur which were transferred to the Orissa Division on the 16th of October 1905. The area varies from 4,243 square miles (Moharbhanj) to 46 square miles (Tigiria). Total population, 31,73,395. Some of them maintain militias and pay tribute and a few have guns.]

Administration.

9. The most important change during the year was the transfer of the five States of Bamra, Kalahandi, Patna, Rehrakhol, and Sonpur from the Central Provinces and of Bonai and Gangpur from Chota Nagpur to Orissa on the 16th of October 1905. The office of Political Agent was created for all the 24 States now comprised in the Tributary and Feudatory States of Orissa. The Chiefs of the States of Khondpara and Keonjhar died during the year under review. The latter was succeeded by his son and the former by an adopted son. The Chief of Hindal also died during the year and was succeeded by his eldest son who is a minor. The State of Dhenkanal was released after a long period of minority extending over nearly 30 years. The States of Baramba and Nayagarh remained under Government management as in the preceding year. The Narsingpur State also remained under Government management as in the preceding year, but as the Chief has shown some signs of improvement he has been invested with the powers of a Magistrate of the first class. During

the year a Government Agent was appointed for the Nilgiri State, the Chief of which was deprived of his administrative powers for a period of 18 months on account of misconduct. The States of Bonai, Kalahandi and Pal Lahera continued under Government management.

Public health and material condition of the people.

10. With the exception of Dhenkanal, Nayagarh and Moharbhanj, where fever and cholera broke out in an epidemic form, public health was generally good during the year under report. Cattle disease in an epidemic form also broke out in the three States mentioned and carried off large numbers of cattle. There was no appearance of plague in any of the States. One important feature of the year was the creation of a municipality in the town of Baripada, the capital of the Moharbhanj State. The material condition of the people was, on the whole, satisfactory in all the States. In the seven recently transferred States the year was an exceptionally healthy one and there was no outbreak of epidemic disease. Economic conditions were generally favourable. The highest price quoted for common paddy was fifteen seers per rupee for a short period before the harvest in Rehrakhol, the lowest price being 32 seers per rupee in Patna.

Land Revenue administration.

11. In Kalahandi, which is under direct management, the percentage of total realisation of arrear and current demand exceeded 99 per cent., and collections on account of current demand were 98·3. In the remaining four States administered by their own Chief, the collections on account of current demand were Patna 89 per cent., Sonpur 98, Bamra 95, and Rehrakhol 96. In Patna the collections on total demand were 87 per cent., in Sonpur 98; in Bamra all arrears were realised and in Rehrakhol 95 per cent. In Patna the alteration of the November kist to January has now been given effect to, and the change in the instalment has also been made in Rehrakhol. No change was made in the kists for Bamra, as after further consideration it was decided that the existing kists might continue for the present. The settlement operations in Kalahandi were finally completed in 1904 and were sanctioned in 1905. Fair progress was made with the settlement work in Sonpur and Patna and the proceedings were smoothly carried on. The announcement of the revised settlement in Rehrakhol was not completed. The collection of the land revenue was readily effected in all the States.

Police and Criminal Justice.

12. There was an increase in the strength of the police force in the 17 Tributary Mahals of 23 officers and 16 men due to the reorganisation of the force in the Moharbhanj State. In the States recently taken over several changes took place, the Kalahandi police force being reorganised, while the Zamindari police in Sonpur were abolished. The police force in all these States is now entirely under State control. There was an increase in the total number of cognisable cases. In Moharbhanj this increase is attributed to increased vigilance on the part of the police. The crime of the year was not serious nor was there anything unusual in its character.

Jails.

13. There was an increase in admissions in the Jails of the 17 Tributary Mahals, the number being 2,481, against 1,610 in the previous year. The number of deaths rose from 9 to 16, the largest number being in the Moharbhanj Jail, where cholera broke out in an epidemic form.

Education.

14. In the 17 Tributary Mahals there were 1,456 schools and 27,077 pupils, showing an increase of 70 schools and 1,112 pupils, which is distributed over all classes of schools, except the Middle English. There are two High Schools, one at Dhenkanal and one at Moharbhanj. Girls' schools increased from 29 to 36 with a corresponding increase of pupils from 773 to 854. There were 2,975 aboriginal pupils under instruction against 2,619 in the preceding year, the increase being most noticeable in Moharbhanj, in which State especially liberal measures have been adopted for the encouragement of education among the aboriginal races.

Mines and Manufactures.

15. Moharbhanj is the only State in which mining operations were carried on in a practical manner. The iron ores of Gurumahisani have been pronounced by experts to be of excellent quality, and the supply is reported to be practically inexhaustible. As regards manufactures there is little to be said. Cotton and silk cloths are made in Baramba and Tigiria, and brass bell metal and stone utensils as well as iron implements and bamboo wares are manufactured in the States of Daspalla, Dhenkanal, Khondpara, Nayagarh, Nilgiri and Talcher.

Medical.

16. The number of dispensaries remained the same as in the previous year, but there was an increase in the number of patients both indoor and outdoor. There was also a large increase in expenditure. These institutions are reported to have been doing useful work, especially in the remote and inaccessible regions in the hill tracts of the Garjat States, but there is still much room for further extension.

Condition of the People.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for 1905-1906.]

Prices of food and labour.

17. The prices of food-grains everywhere ruled much higher than in the preceding year except in the Sonthal Parganas where the price of common rice remained practically the same as before; in Balasore and Singhbhum there was a slight fall in the price of wheat, while in Angul it was stationary; the price of barley fell in the districts of Hooghly and Nadia, and in Singhbhum it was the same as in the previous year; in Khulna, Puri and in Sambalpur there was a decline in the price of gram, while in Cuttack it remained the same as in the previous year; the price of maize continued to rise except in Manbhum where there was a very slight fall. The cause of the high price of rice in the Burdwan Division is attributed to exports in large quantities in consequence of the failure of crops in other parts of the country; the rise in price of other food-crops was due to the poor outturn. The short harvest in the districts of Backergunge and Burdwan prevented the usual importation of rice into the Presidency Division, and the result was a rise in the price of common rice as well as other food-grains. In the Patna Division the rise is attributed to the export of grains to other provinces where there has been scarcity rather than to any decrease in the local outturn during the year. The chief cause of the high level of prices in the Bhagalpur Division is said to be the heavy exports to Eastern Bengal and elsewhere. In Darjeeling and the eastern part of Purnea, however, prices rose high before this export set in, and there they are attributed to local deficiency in outturn, the failure of the maize crop having been serious in part of Darjeeling and jute cultivation having been largely extended in the Kissengunge subdivision of Purnea at the expense of rice. Circumstances generally have been such as to lead grain merchants to hold up stocks. Owing to the low outturn of the *bhadoi* and winter rice crops in the Orissa Division and to large exports to other places beyond the Division, the price of rice ruled high throughout the year. The price of common rice in Ranchi was abnormally high owing to successive bad harvests. Wheat, gram and barley are generally imported into Ranchi from the Gaya district and their prices naturally depend on the prices ruling there. In Hazaribagh the high prices of the principal food-grains are ascribed partly to a large export trade owing to higher prices elsewhere; while many cultivators are said to have held on to their stocks in the hope of higher prices later on. The rise in the price of barley and gram in the Manbhum district was due to the damage done to these crops by heavy rains. There was a fall in the price of salt throughout the province except in Sambalpur, and this is due to the reduction of the duty on this commodity.

18. Wages show an upward tendency in several localities. In Bankura the rise as in the previous year was due to the opening of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway which has given extra employment in the district and facilities for obtaining employment elsewhere. In Hooghly and Howrah the continued rise was due to the great demand for labour in mills and factories, and the same cause produced a similar result in the Barrackpore subdivision of the 24-Parganas. In the Diamond Harbour subdivision there was a large demand for common labourers in connection with the Mograhat-Kaorapukur drainage scheme. In Jessore and Khulna there was a considerable rise in the price of labour during the year. The Collector of Khulna attributes it to the rise in the prices of food-grains, to the greater demand for masons and carpenters, to the improvement in the general condition of the people and to the demand for labourers in the jute season. In the Patna Division the difficulty of obtaining unskilled labour at the old customary rates is becoming more and more apparent. This is probably due to the increase in the number of people who emigrate to large towns or mills, or to places where railway construction work is in progress and

where they can secure perhaps double the wages offered to them at home. There was a slight rise in Puri owing to the high price of rice and the demand for labour in the town. In Ranchi the wages of ordinary labourers rose owing to the demand for labour for the construction of the Ranchi-Purulia Railway line, and of several public buildings. Unskilled labour now earns three annas a day, while on railway work four annas are paid. In Manbhum also there was an upward tendency owing to the development of Railways and of the coal industry, and to increased commercial activity in other directions.

Public health and material condition of the people

Burdwan Division.

19. There was no appreciable change in the material condition of the people in the district of Burdwan. In Birbhum the lower classes suffered somewhat, as owing to the failure of the *rabi* crops they could not get as much local labour as usual, and wages remained the same, while the prices of food-grains rose considerably. The condition of the middle classes was fairly satisfactory. In Bankura the people are generally poor, all the zamindars except the Burdwan Raj are encumbered, and consequently give very little assistance to their tenants, who are compelled, when necessary, to borrow money from the local *mahajans* at an exorbitant rate of interest. The Commissioner states that the establishment of Co-operative Credit Societies will benefit such people immensely; two such societies have been created in this district, and he hopes the Collector will be able to induce the cultivators to start others. The condition of the people of Midnapore was good, though prices were comparatively high throughout the district towards the latter part of the year owing to large exports. The condition of the people generally in the Hooghly district continued satisfactory, except in portions of Arambagh, where a large tract is subject to periodical inundations. Heavy floods in July caused damage to the crops in parts of the Hooghly and Howrah districts. The produce of food-grains was below the average and prices ruled higher than usual.

Presidency.

20. The material condition of the agricultural classes was not as satisfactory as in the previous year in the districts of the 24-Parganas, Nadia and Jessore. The rise in the price of food-grains was met in Jessore and Khulna by a rise of wages. In the Sadar subdivision of Jessore the rate of unskilled labour is reported to have risen from 5 to 8 annas a day. In Murshidabad the harvests were on the whole better than in the previous year, and there was no deterioration in the condition of the agricultural population. The condition of the labouring classes in the manufacturing centres in the 24-Parganas continued to be prosperous. Artisans and skilled labourers are much in request in the 24-Parganas, and their condition is generally satisfactory. There was an outbreak of cholera in the Diamond Harbour subdivision and in parts of the Basirhat and Barrackpore subdivisions in the 24-Parganas. The last-named subdivision was also visited by an epidemic of small-pox, but plague, from which it had suffered in the previous year, was happily almost entirely absent. Apart from these visitations the district was healthier than usual. As usual, Nadia and Jessore suffered much from malarial fever. Plague appeared in an epidemic form in the town of Santipur in the former district and the latter was visited by cholera which claimed many victims.

Patna.

21. The majority of the people in the Patna Division are dependent on agriculture or agricultural labour and their material condition is consequently directly dependent on the vicissitudes of the season. The poor outturn of the *bhadoi* crops caused some distress, but as the winter paddy and *rabi* yielded a fair outturn, the year was not, on the whole, unfavourable for the agricultural classes, although the landless labourers and people of small means have suffered considerably on account of the high prices of food-grains which have ruled generally. The public health has generally speaking been up to the normal standard. Plague was of less extent and intensity than in former years, though the actual cases have in many places taken a very severe and fatal form. This disease was worst in the districts of Patna, Gaya, Shahabad and Saran. In Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga it was not so widespread. In Champaran there were only 34 cases of plague, but fever and cholera were responsible for about 36,000 deaths. There were also outbreaks of cholera in Gaya, Shahabad and Muzaffarpur. There was no change in the standard of living among the different classes of the community.

Bhagalpur.

22. The condition of the people in the Bhagalpur Division has everywhere been depressed, while there has been considerable stress in certain

tracts, particularly in the northeen half of the Sonthal Parganas and the adjoining portion of Bhagalpur, in the areas in North Monghyr and North Bhagalpur where the crops were to a great extent destroyed by prolonged inundation from the hill rivers, and in the eastern portion of the Darjeeling district. Added to this, the prices of food-grains maintained an exceptionally high level in the latter part of the year, and this caused much distress among the labouring class and those whose income is fixed. The rise came too late to benefit the agriculturists who had surplus produce to sell, except in the east of Purnea where prices were forced up early owing to the extension of jute cultivation at the expense of rice. The people there were enriched by the jute crop and so could afford to pay a high price for their food. The strain has been greatest in the Sonthal Parganas, where the harvests have been unsatisfactory for the past two or three years, and the *mahua* crop, which was being looked forward to relieve the tension, turned out most disappointing. But as in the preceding year, a good outturn of lac, coupled with high prices, proved a compensating feature in the eastern portion of the district, and the stone quarries there have provided a certain amount of employment. In the Jamtara subdivision the poorer classes find a good demand for their labour in the coal-fields of adjoining districts. In the tracts that suffered from inundation in North Monghyr and North Bhagalpur, timely relief was afforded by advances under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, and also by a grant from Babu Ramlal Mukerjee's Fund. In the Government estates known as Rajanpur in the Madhipura subdivision the suspension of one-fourth of the rent demand until October next has been sanctioned. Relief was afforded by advances under the Agriculturists' Loans Act in the Kalimpong subdivision—an unusual occurrence in the district of Darjeeling. In the towns of Bhagalpur, Monghyr and Jamalpur, and also in the rural portion of the Monghyr district, plague appeared in epidemic form, though the visitation was not quite so severe or prolonged as in the previous year. It caused much dislocation of business of all kinds and serious inconvenience to the people, who deserted the infected localities in large numbers. In the Purnea district there was a severe outbreak of cholera in the autumn, but malarial fever worked much less havoc than in the preceding year.

Orissa.

23. In the Orissa Division the condition of the people on the whole was not unsatisfactory, although the year was not a prosperous one from an agricultural point of view. The outturn of the *bhadoi* and winter crops, though below the average and partially depleted by exports, was sufficient to meet the consumption of the people. Partial failure of the crops owing to deficient rainfall and its uneven distribution necessitated the grant of *taccavi* advances in Balasore and Angul, to enable the tenants of the affected tracts to tide over the difficulty of growing crops for the next season. There has been no material change in the people's standard of living. The material condition of the people of the Sambalpur district was, it appears, much better than that of other parts of the Division. The crops were fair, and though the better prices obtained for them stimulated exports, it is believed that a sufficient stock is maintained in the district for its own requirements.

Chota Nagpur.

24. On the whole the people of the Chota Nagpur Division were fairly prosperous. The passing of the amendment of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, which prohibits private sales of agricultural holdings, has had a considerable effect, not only directly, but also in reducing the borrowing power of the raiyats; and as this power was usually exercised by the aboriginal tribes in order to launch out into useless and unnecessary expenditure at marriages and other festivals, its restriction has done much good. High prices would have caused some distress in Hazaribagh but for a very abundant *mahua* crop and an ample demand for labour at the coal and mica mines and on the Gaya-Katras Railway line. Advances under the Agriculturists' Loans Act were given to relieve distress caused by frost during the winter of 1904-1905. In Manbhum and Ranchi the construction of the Ranchi-Purulia Railway afforded work to a large number of the labouring classes. The coal mines of the former district gave employment to 27,703 labourers. The year was a prosperous one in Singhbhum owing to the good harvests. Plague prevailed sporadically over a considerable area in Palamau. There was also an outbreak in Jheria which, however, was promptly dealt with and suppressed.

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Realization of the Revenue.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for 1905-1906.]

25. An account of the year's demand, collection and balance of revenue will be found under Chapter V—Revenue and Finance.

Collection of land revenue.

26. The total demands and collections of the year (excluding the figures for Sambalpur where the total demand of Rs. 1,80,313 was collected in full) exceeded those of the previous year by Rs. 1,19,572 and Rs. 2,38,994 respectively, and were the highest during the quinquennial period. The percentages of collections were higher than in any of the preceding years and the total remissions and balances were the lowest on record. There was an increase in the demands of all the three classes—permanently-settled estates; temporarily-settled estates; estates held direct by Government as compared with the preceding year. The arrear demand was Rs. 8,25,757 as against Rs. 7,73,268 in the previous year. The current collections were Rs. 2,79,97,689 as against Rs. 2,76,16,776 in the preceding year, and the percentage of collections on the current demand rose from 97·46 to 97·95. The percentage of arrear collections showed, however, a slight falling off, being 79·79 as against 80·25 in the previous year. The total collections, current and arrear, amounting to Rs. 2,86,56,581, were 97·44 per cent. of the total and 100·25 per cent. of the current demand as against 97·00 and 99·65 per cent., respectively, in the previous year. The total collections and remissions together amounted to Rs. 2,87,08,432 or 97·61 per cent. of the total demand, the corresponding percentage in the previous year being 97·25. The amounts remitted during the year were Rs. 1,200 in permanently-settled estates, Rs. 685 in temporarily-settled estates, and Rs. 49,966 in estates held direct by Government, making a total of Rs. 51,851, of which Rs. 17,286 represented remissions of grace, Rs. 15,492 remissions of right, and Rs. 19,073 nominal remissions. The total remissions showed a decrease of Rs. 20,596 as compared with the previous year.

Remissions.

Miscellaneous revenue.

27. The total collections of miscellaneous revenue, including receipts from forest lands in Government estates, were Rs. 5,22,099 as against Rs. 10,59,577 in the previous year. The difference was due to a large decrease amounting to Rs. 5,66,122 in receipts on account of survey and settlement charges in the Bhagalpur Division. The largest amounts realized under the head "Other receipts" were Rs. 57,510 in Burdwan and Rs. 65,107 in the Sonthal Parganas. Almost the whole of the former represented the charges for repairs to Government embankments (*pulbandi*) realized from the Burdwan Raj, and the latter consisted mostly of fees for fuel and royalties on *sabai* grass and hâts. The total remissions (Rs. 21,888) and balances (Rs. 28,694) were chiefly in respect of fines under the Land Registration Act, VII (B.C.) of 1876 and Act XX of 1848 in the Patna and Bhagalpur Divisions. The balances are in course of recovery.

Road and Public Works cesses.

28. Both cesses were levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee in the 30 districts (including the Sonthal Parganas) of the Province as now constituted, in which the Act is in force. In the Sonthal Parganas the provisions of the Cess Act were extended by Government Notification dated the 25th October 1905, to all parts of the district to which they were not already extended. The levy of cesses in this district began for the first time from the beginning of the year and then only in a few estates of which the settlement had been completed. The Act is not in force in Angul and the Khondmals, or in Sambalpur. The current demand of land revenue of the 30 districts was Rs. 2,82,99,982 and the valuation or gross rental amounted to Rs. 12,64,57,129. As compared with the preceding year, the current demand of cesses showed an increase of Rs. 6,045, being Rs. 69,55,856 as against Rs. 69,49,811. The collections amounted to Rs. 70,59,858 as compared with Rs. 70,06,476 in the preceding year, the increase being more than half a lakh.

The percentage of total collections on the current demand was 101·4 as against 100·8 in the previous year. During the year revaluation proceedings on an extensive scale were in progress in the districts of Burdwan, Birbhum, Bankura, Midnapore, Hooghly, Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur, Manbhum and Palamau. The work in Hooghly, Champaran and Muzaffarpur has been completed.

Redemption of land revenue.

29. The total number of redemptions effected during the year under the orders of Government was 403 as against 458 in the previous year, and they were mostly in respect of the small rent-paying holdings in the Government estates of Calcutta and the Suburbs, which the proprietors are allowed to redeem by one payment of thirty times the yearly rent.

Remittances of land revenue, cesses and rent by means of special money-orders.

30. The number of revenue money-orders and the amount of land revenue and cesses remitted thereby increased from 200,771 and Rs. 15,70,780 in the preceding year to 216,506 and Rs. 16,23,235, respectively, in the year under report, which indicates the growing popularity of the system among petty landlords. The average value of an order was Rs. 7-8 as against Rs. 7-13-2 in the previous year. The increase in the number of orders is attributed to the reduction in the money-order fee for sums of Rs. 5 and less and also to the introduction of separate forms of money-order for land revenue and cesses. The remittances exceeded a lakh of rupees in each of the districts of Midnapore, Jessore, Shahabad, Muzaffarpur, Monghyr and Cuttack. As in the preceding year, the system of payment of rent by money-order was in force throughout the Province, except in the districts of Cuttack, Balasore, Angul, Darjeeling, the Sonthal Parganas and the Chota Nagpur Division. In the last quarter of the year under review, the privilege was extended to the tenants of the districts of Cuttack and Balasore. The question of introducing the system into the Chota Nagpur Division will be considered by the Select Committee when dealing with the Chota Nagpur Landlord and Tenant Procedure Act Amendment Bill of 1906. Though the s sytem is not at present in force in this Division, rents remitted by money orders are accepted in the case of Government *khas* mahals. The total number of money-orders issued during the year in the Lower Provinces, as now constituted, was 37,173 (for a sum of Rs. 5,87,113) as against 37,374 (for Rs. 5,81,951) in 1904-1905. There was an increase in the number of money-orders issued in the Bhagalpur, Patna and Orissa Divisions and a decrease in the others.

Operation of the Sale Laws.

31. During the year under review the number of estates, shares and interests which defaulted rose to 10,591 from 9,844 in 1904-1905. The number of sales actually held fell, however, to 798 from 840 in the preceding year. The amount realized by sale was Rs. 4,48,251, or 4·5 times the revenue demand, as compared with Rs. 6,33,371, or 4·7 in the previous year. One hundred and twenty-eight appeals against sales were preferred before Commissioners, and of these, 24 sales were annulled by the Commissioners under section 2 of Act VII (B.C.) of 1868 and 16 cases were recommended under section 26 of Act XI of 1859 for annulment of the sales on the ground of hardship. In addition to the above, there were 11 cases of sales of *chaukidari chakaran* lands in the districts of Burdwan, Birbhum, Bankura, and Murshidabad.

Certificate cases.

32. The total number of certificates filed in the several districts of the province as at present constituted during the year under review was 150,446, as against 132,076 in the preceding year, showing an increase of 18,370. The increase was chiefly due to cases under the heads "Arrears of rent due to Government" (4,205), "Embankment dues" (3,501), "Cesses" (4,896) and "All other certificates" (7,295). The institutions under the head "Court of Wards' demands" fell by 1,277 cases. Under the head "Arrears of rent due to Government" the increase (4,205) was mainly contributed by Midnapore (2,655) and Murshidabad (719). In the Sonthal Parganas cesses were levied for the first time and 63 certificates were filed for their realization.

Land Registration.

33. The total number of proprietary interests in land entered in the registers of the province as constituted after the partition of Bengal under section 38 of Act VII (B.C.) of 1876 was 1,010,337 at the close of 1904-1905. The total number of applications for successions to interests, whether by purchase, inheritance, gift or otherwise, made during the year, was 55,506. Of these 47,431 mutations were allowed during the year, being a percentage of 4·6 on the actual number of interests. The percentage was highest in the

Burdwan Division (6·4) and lowest in the Orissa Division (3·4). The number of old interests removed and of new interests entered were 60,842 and 70,442, respectively. Thus the total number of interests at the close of the year was 1,019,937.

Co-operative Credit Societies.

34. The registration of Co-operative Credit Societies commenced this year, and of the 56 societies in Bengal, 19 have been registered under the Act: 38 new societies have been registered during the year and 11 societies have been registered since the close of the year. The societies are almost all small, consisting of from 10 to 50 members and the capital employed is from 150 to 500 rupees. The number of members enrolled up to the 31st of March 1906 both in the registered and unregistered Societies rose from 3,910 last year to 4,617, or 18 per cent. during the year under review. The number of members who received loans during the year was 2,595.

Surveys and Settlements.

[Annual Report on the Survey Operations in Bengal during the year 1905-1906 and Land Revenue Administration Report for 1905-1906.]

MAJOR OPERATIONS.

Work of the year.

35. The outturn of the year, namely, 5,591 square miles of traverse survey, 1,769 square miles of cadastral survey, 1,601 square miles of record-writing and 1,095 square miles of topographical survey, is considerably less than that of last year. The full programme of the year, however, has been worked up to in every respect, in most cases slightly exceeded, except the record-writing programme which was reduced during the field season at the request of the Settlement Officer of Bhagalpur.

Reports on Surveys and Records-of-rights in Private Estates.

36. In the Bhagalpur district only an area of 363 square miles of thana Katauria remained for traverse survey and this has been completed during the year under report. The areas accomplished are 1,270 square miles of cadastral survey and 1,108 square miles of record-writing. The deficit of 162 square miles of record-writing lies in one compact block in thana Katauria. The record-writing of this block was postponed to season 1906-1907 at the request of the Settlement Department. Except for 7 square miles of up-lands, the only portion of the Purnea district remaining for traverse was the Ganges *diara*. The area dealt with cadastrally during the season under report consisted of the portions of thana Kadwa and Saifganj, which had been traversed in advance during the foregoing season and the Ganges *diara* which was traversed during the same season. The total outturn was 485 square miles of cadastral survey and record-writing. Traverse operations were extended to South Monghyr during the year under report. The area accomplished was 1,217 square miles exclusive of 275 square miles of hilly and jungly country, which are to be excluded from the cadastral operations. In order to complete the Ganges *diara* and join on to the former survey of the Damin-i-koh an area of 22 square miles was traversed of the Sonthal Parganas. During the year an area of 873 square miles has been traversed in thanas Chainpur, Bishunpur and Ghagra in the Ranchi district. In Midnapore parganas Nayabasan and Rohini, amounting to an area of 187 square miles, were traversed during the season. The operations in the Khulna district were confined to the Dehi Bhadra Estate, the plots of which were required during the same season for cadastral survey by the Settlement Department. The area surveyed is 106 square miles. The survey of the southern and uncleared portions of the Sundarbans was commenced during the year under report. The area traversed was 1,050 square miles and consisted of 456 square miles, which had been marked off into 20 lots by the Settlement Officer for future colonization purposes, and 594 square miles of forests, which have been traversed in 34 blocks.

Calcutta Suburbs Survey.

37. The field work in connection with the 8,513 acres, known as the added area of Calcutta, was completed during the last season. During the year under report, the only items of field work accomplished were (*a*) revision of portions of the survey of Calcutta which fell into sheets containing the added area also, (*b*) traverse of 1,443 acres outside municipal limits, (*c*) skeleton survey on 50-foot scale of the foregoing 1,443 acres, and (*d*) detail survey on

32-inch scale of detached land. It has been proposed to bring the survey of Calcutta proper up to date and to maintain an establishment to deal with all changes as they occur, thereby ensuring correct and up-to-date maps of the whole of Calcutta. A scheme is under preparation.

MINOR OPERATIONS.

38. Minor surveys by non-professional agency were conducted in connection with petty settlements throughout the Lower Provinces, the most important being those in Burdwan, Midnapore, Hooghly, 24-Parganas, Nadia, Murshidabad, Khulna, Shahabad, Gaya and Angul.

Progress was made in the smaller settlements under the Bengal Tenancy Act and supervised by Commissioners of Divisions. An area of 19,562 acres in 64 villages within Government Estates containing an estimated number of 4,742 tenants was under settlement during the year. The total expenditure incurred amounted to Rs. 1,740. The greater portion of the area under settlement lay in the 24-Parganas, Nadia, Gaya, and Monghyr.

Land Records.

[Annual Report of the Department of Land Records, Bengal, for the year ending 30th September 1906.]

Experimental Revisional Settlement in Balasore.

39. For the purpose of arriving at a suitable and practical scheme for the maintenance of settlement records, an experimental revision settlement was undertaken, in respect of 122 villages situated in the Sadar thana of the district of Balasore. The experimental operations were started in the cold weather of 1904-1905 and completed in June 1906. The area taken up comprised 45·61 square miles distributed over 14 chaukidari unions. Field work was done in the cold weather of 1904-1905 by the presidents of the chaukidari unions under the supervision of a kanungo. The president of each union was furnished at first with abbreviated and subsequently with full copies of the khatians of the last settlement, together with the copies of the khasra. He was required to travel map in hand, from plot to plot in each village, and to record in a rough register all changes in possession of plots and of tenancies, as well as the numbers of the plots which required remeasurement. The kanungo checked over 10 per cent. of the mutations recorded by the president, and remeasured all plots in respect of which alteration of the maps was required. During the recess the khatians of the last settlement were corrected in red ink, dispute lists written up, and the records prepared for attestation in the following cold weather. In view of the proposals for a general revision of the record-of-rights in Orissa, it was decided to confine the attestation work to an area containing 65,854 plots and 23,853 khatians. The work was carried out by a kanungo, under the supervision of the Collector.

As a result of these experimental proceedings, it was found that the number of plots and khatians in the villages attested had increased from 59,335 and 20,063 to 65,854 and 23,833, *i.e.*, by 11 and 19 per cent., respectively. Since the last settlement, which took place 10 years previously, no less than 40,794 plots and 15,214 khatians, or 69 and 76 per cent., respectively, had undergone some change.

Maintenance of Land Records in Sambalpur.

40. The settlement of the Sambalpur district was completed during the year and the records made over to the maintenance staff. The establishment of the Land Records Department was revised during the settlement, and the staff now sanctioned consists of 10 Revenue Inspectors and 216 patwaris. They work under the rules for the maintenance of the records contained in the Central Provinces Revenue Manual. The duties of the patwari are to write up a khasra or field book showing all changes that have taken place during the year, and to correct the maps. The work is tested on the ground by the Revenue Inspectors.

The results of the working of the Mutation Offices.

41. The returns of the mutation offices established at Bettia, Hajipur and Mahnar under the Land Records Maintenance Act, III (B.C.) of 1895, show a slight decline in the number of mutations recorded in these offices, only 2,950 mutations having been registered as compared with 3,015 in the previous year. The amount realised in fees was Rs. 319 as against Rs. 385 in the previous

year. The opinion expressed in previous years that the Act is a failure, so far as maintenance of the record is concerned, is thus again confirmed. It will no doubt be repealed when a proper system of maintenance is evolved as a result of the Orissa experiment.

Government and Wards Estates.

42. According to the standard laid down by the Board the number of mutations recorded annually should not fall below 8 per cent. of the total number of tenancies in an estate. So far as Government estates are concerned, the standard was attained in four districts only. It was approached in two more, and in the remainder the number of mutations recorded was only 4 per cent., or less, of the total number of tenancies. Taking the Government estates as a whole, the percentage attained is only 4·07 per cent. as compared with 4·35 per cent. in the previous year and 7·11 per cent. in 1903-1904.

Waste Lands.

[Report of the Board of Revenue on the Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for 1905-1906]

Administration of the Sundarbans.

43. The number of current leases granted under the rules of 1853 in the 24-Parganas and Khulna Sundarbans was the same as in the previous year, viz,. 115. The rent payable on account of these leases rose from Rs. 1,01,346 to Rs. 1,01,874. No new cultivation leases were granted during the year either to large or small capitalists. The number of leases granted to large capitalists at the close of the year was 193 as against 203 in the preceding year. The decrease is due to the determination of 10 leases for failure on the part of the lessees to comply with the clearing conditions and to make protective works. The leases were resumed under Government orders. The area covered by the existing leases is 345,571 acres. The revenue payable during the year was Rs. 28,383. The number of leases granted to small capitalists remained 9 as in the preceding year, covering an area of 11,842 acres. The present revenue payable for these leases is Rs. 14,729, which will eventually rise to Rs. 14,916.

Fraserganj.

44. The reclamation operations at Fraserganj in the 24-Parganas portion of the Sundarbans continued during the year. They consisted of embanking and clearing portions of the island. Work was retarded by an outbreak of cholera among the coolies and by the difficulty of obtaining labourers for earthwork after the disease had been stamped out. Mr. Sunder, who was in charge of the work, reports that 3,300 acres were cleared and partly embanked during the cold weather. A road was made and several khals were dammed. The total expenditure incurred up to the close of the year was Rs. 1,49,712 as against an allotment of Rs. 1,50,000. There are 27 settlers on the estate and more are expected shortly.

Government Estates.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for 1905-1906.]

Number and management of estates.

45. The total number of estates under direct management during the year including estates of private individuals managed by Government was 1,844 with a currect demand of Rs. 27,37,952. The percentage of the cost of management on the current demand was 7·29. There has been no change either in the managing agency or in the mode of management except as noted below.

In Burdwan the appointment of two Tahsildars, one for Katwa and the other for Kalna, was sanctioned by the Board. The Special Deputy Collector in charge of the khas mahals in the Contai subdivision and of the Doro Circle of the Majnamutha estate in the Tamluk subdivision worked directly under the Collector of Midnapore till September 1905, when Government, with a view to improving the administration of the khas mahals, placed a Civilian in charge of the Contai subdivision, and since then the Special Deputy Collector has been acting as his assistant. The four circles into which the khas mahals in charge of the Special Deputy Collector have been divided, viz., Contai, Kukrahati, Bhagwanpur and Birbandar, remained throughout the year in charge of Sub-Managers. In the Presidency Division a khas

mahal clerk was appointed in the Basirhat subdivision of the 24-Parganas. The Manager of the Kalimpong Government Estates in Darjeeling was made a Deputy Collector and the post of Assistant Manager was abolished during the year.

Allotment and expenditure.

46. The amount placed at the disposal of the Board for the management of Government estates during the year 1905-06 was Rs. 5,90,940. An additional allotment of Rs. 30,000 was subsequently sanctioned. On the formation of the new province of Eastern Bengal and Assam a sum of Rs. 1,500 was placed at the disposal of the Board of Revenue of that province for utilisation in the management and improvement of the Government estates in the transferred districts of the Dacca, Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions.

The distribution made by this Board of the above grant in their Resolution dated the 15th July 1905, amounted to Rs. 5,66,392, including the allotments assigned to the transferred districts. The total amount sanctioned for works of improvement, excluding the sums granted for such works to the transferred districts, was Rs. 1,35,210.

Out of the total expenditure of Rs. 1,87,907, Rs. 25,300 were spent on tanks and wells, Rs. 72,989 on drainage, irrigation and embankments, Rs. 36,608 on roads and bridges, and the rest on miscellanous works, including tree-planting.

Condition of raiyats in Government Estates.

47. The condition of the raiyats in the Government estates in the Burdwan Division was generally good, although the crops suffered to some extent in certain khas mahals from heavy rains and defects in drainage. The high price of food-grains which ruled during the year enabled the tenants of the Contai khas mahals to pay off their dues without any difficulty. Public health was not good in Contai owing to outbreaks of cholera and small-pox. The condition of the tenantry is reported to be generally fair in the 24-Parganas. The crops were damaged to a certain extent by floods in the Port Canning Government estate and the Government estates of the Diamond Harbour subdivision, but the condition of the tenants was not materially affected. In Nadia and Jessore their condition was not satisfactory owing to the failure of crops. There was a partial failure of the *rabi* crops in Murshidabad, but the outturn of winter rice was satisfactory. In Khulna the crops were good in all the Government estates except Char Baniary and the tenants were fairly prosperous. The condition of the raiyats in the Patna Division was, on the whole, satisfactory. The tenants of some of the estates in the districts of Patna, Gaya, Shahabad and Saran suffered from plague, and partial damage to the crops caused by heavy rain or want of proper irrigation has been reported from some places in the districts of Patna, Shahabad and Darbhanga. An outbreak of cattle disease occurred in the Bakhtiyarpur estate in Darbhanga. The condition of the raiyats in the Bhagalpur Division was fair except in the Sonthal Parganas, in the Madhipura subdivision and in the Darjeeling hills. In the Sonthal Parganas owing to heavy rains in August and September, the outturn of the *bhadoi* crops was poor and the early cessation of the monsoon resulted in a deficient winter rice crop. Thus the cultivators could not benefit by the very high prices which have been prevalent owing to outside demand, and those whose supplies were short have been unable to afford these prices. The wet weather in February and March and a heavy fall of hail seriously affected the *mahua* crop which is of value when there is a deficiency in the yield of food-grains. This has caused no real distress, but considerable tension which still continues. Serious loss of crops from floods caused by the rivers from Nepal affected the tenants of the Madhipura subdivision in Bhagalpur, and with a view to afford them some relief, the Board have sanctioned the suspension until October 1906 of the collectoin of one-fourth of their rents. The condition of the raiyats of all the Government estates in the Orissa Division was, on the whole, prosperous during the year under report. In Birso and a few villages of the Government estates in Balasore the outturn was poor, and in a small area of the Khurda Government estate the deficient rainfall in October caused a failure of the *laghu* crops. Taccavi advances were liberally given according to requirements. There was no general epidemic disease of a serious nature, but cholera broke out in some villages in Nayanund and Birso, to relieve which proper medical aid

was sent. Some 23 raiyats of Banpur in Khurda are reported to have deserted their villages; six of them are living in other villages of the estate and the remainder have gone to Ganjam and Rangoon in the hope of earning better wages.

48. The condition of the raiyats in the Hazaribagh Khas Mahals was good and there were no desertions during the year. In Ranchi owing to failure of the rains in the latter part of the season, the outturn of the crops was uneven, but on the whole the condition of the tenants was satisfactory. In Palamau much money has been spent of late on original and repair works of irrigation and the tenants have thus been put in a position to expect a successful instead of an unsuccessful harvest. They have been given loans at reasonable rates of interest for bullocks and seed; and, generally speaking, their condition has been greatly improved. The number of desertions is now small. During the year under report only 111 relinquishments took place, the holdings affected by which weee not settled during the year. Seventy-nine holdings deserted in previous years have been resettled and again brought on the rent roll, while 117 new families settled in the Government villages during the year under review.

In Singhbhum a full crop was harvested and the people are prosperous. Matters of importance to the people of the Kolhan which came prominently into notice during the year were the prevalence of cattle thefts and the presence of undesirable foreigners, mostly Muhammadan hide-dealers and Beharis in the trade centres of Monoharpur, Jaintgarh and Jagannathpur. A gang of Muhammadans, Ghasis and Hos was successfully prosecuted under section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code in the south of the Kolhan with the result that cattle thefts practically ceased in that part. Two other gangs were similarly prosecuted near Chaibassa. In both cases the prosecution was successful. The Deputy Commissioner reports that the hide dealers were undoubtedly at the bottom of these systematic thefts. They made advances to the Ghasis who were thus in a measure bound to supply them with hides. A number of these persons and their local agents were ordered by the Deputy Commissioner to leave the Kolhan, but as his powers in enforcing orders of this nature are said to be ill-defined some difficulty was experienced in obtainining immediate compliance.

Wards' and Attached Estates.

[The Report of the Board of Revenue on Wards' and Attached Estates in the Lower Provinces for the year 1905-1906.]

Number of estates under management and payment of revenue.

49. The number of estates under management at the close of the year was 164 as against 168 in the previous year. The total payments on account of revenue and cesses due to Government represented 89·0 per cent. of the demand as against 96·0 per cent. in 1904-1905. The greater part of the balance is due from the Tagore estate. The total collection of rent and cesses due to estates was 96·1 per cent. on the current demand as against 96·0 per cent. in the previous year.

Balances.

50. The total uncollected balance due to estates under management amounted to Rs. 51,02,436, or 74·7 per cent. of the current demand of the estates, as against Rs. 70,83,361, or nearly 77 per cent. in the preceding year. In the Presidency Division the increase is more than three lakhs, due mainly to the assumption of charge of the Panihati, Bhukailas No. III and the Janbazar estates. The increase in some of the estates in the Patna Division is due to the damage done to the *bhadoi* crops by heavy floods during the year. In the Bhagalpur Division the balances have increased owing chiefly to the addition of the Banaili (7 annas) estate, which was taken in charge during the year. In the Dompara estate in the Orissa Division it is reported that the balances cannot be materially reduced till the completion of the settlement and the introduction of the certificate procedure. The heavy balances in some of the estates in the Chota Nagpur Division are attributed to partial failure of crops. There was a decrease in the number of certificates filed during the year, which amounted to 7,425 as against 9,016 in the previous year. The decrease was shared by al the Divisions. The number of rent suits filed during the year showed a slight increase, being 2,135 as against 2,062 in the previous year.

Reduction of debts.

51. Altogether Rs. 24,01,483 were paid in liquidation of debts as against Rs. 47,34,774 in the previous year. The balance at the close of the year amounted to Rs. 2,17,26,500 as against Rs. 1,77,50,515 at the close of the previous year. The increase is mainly due to the assumption of charge during the year of the Banaili estate, the debts of which amount to over 48 lakhs.

Cost of management and expenditure on improvements.

52. The total cost of management was 9·2 per cent. of the current demand as against 10·6 in the preceding year. The percentage was below the prescribed limit in the Presidency, Patna and Chota Nagpur Divisions, while in the Bhagalpur and Orissa Divisions it was 11·6 and 16·0 as against 11·4 and 14·5, respectively, in the previous year. The total expenditure on works of improvement and schools and dispensaries amounted to Rs. 2,36,563 as against Rs. 2,49,935 in the previous year. It is hoped that advantage will be taken of the development of the Agricultural Department to secure greater continuity and system in the carrying out of agricultural experiments.

Education of Wards.

53. The scheme for the opening of a hostel for the education of the children of the proprietors of the encumbered estates at Hazaribagh has now been prepared and is under consideration. Special attention has been drawn to the subject of the education of wards. The Board has been asked to submit a separate report on the subject.

General.

54. Miss Cornelia Sorabji continues to hold the appointment of Legal Adviser to *purdanashin* ladies under the Court of Wards. Her influence in preventing litigation in many instances has been marked, and arrangements are now being made whereby she should periodically visit all the estates in the province which are the property of *purdanashin* ladies or of which the proprietors are under the guardianship of such ladies in the hope that she may not only be influential in settling difficulties that have arisen but in preventing disputes from arising in the future.

Revenue and Rent-paying Classes.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for 1905-1906 and Divisional Annual Miscellaneous Reports for 1905-1906.]

Relations between landlords and tenants.

Bhagalpur Division.

55. The relations between landlords and tenants appear to have been satisfactory on the whole in all the districts of the Division, except in Monghyr and Bhagalpur. Many zamindars in these two districts, in anticipation of settlement proceedings, made strenuous efforts to obtain from their tenants agreements to pay enhanced rents, and this naturally led to a good deal of tension, though nothing serious occurred. In the Beguserai subdivision the survey and settlement have led to a good deal of litigation in the Civil Courts. The relations between landlords and tenants in Government estates and in estates under the Court of Wards have been excellent throughout the Division.

Presidency Division.

56. In the 24-Parganas the relations between landlords and tenants continued to be satisfactory during the year. Cases of individual oppression were reported chiefly in the Sundarban lots, for which some of the lotdars and gantidars were responsible, but there were no serious developments anywhere. Most of the zamindars in this district keep away from their estates, but they generally employ a proper staff to manage them. The tenants too have come to realise their rights under the Bengal Tenancy Act.

Orissa Division.

57. The relations between landlords and tenants continued to be satisfactory throughout the Orissa Division except in the district of Balasore, where a few cases of illegal exaction by certain landlords and disregard of the provisions of the law in regard to the form of rent receipt granted to tenants came to light.

Burdwan Division.

58. In the Burdwan Division the relations between landlords and tenants have been amicable throughout the year.

Chota Nagpur Division.

59. Relations between landlords and tenants are reported to be not entirely satisfactory in the Ranchi district. Where there has been a survey and settlement, things are settling down, but considerable feeling has been aroused among the landlords by the cutting down of rents in some cases and by the abolition of *beth begar* and, in their view, the inadequate compensation paid for it. Where the settlement has not reached, the relations are more strained than before, the tenants refusing to pay *rakumats* or render *beth begari*, while the landlords endeavour to oust the tenants and bring all they can under their own cultivation in anticipation of the settlement proceedings. This unrest is the necessary

accompaniment of the settlement, and when it is over, things will certainly quiet down again. The only danger is that if the landlords consider they have been inequitably treated they may become embittered, and they have it in their power to oppress the raiyat in many ways. In Palamau, Manbhum, and Singhbhum, the relations between landlords and tenants were satisfactory with one or two exceptions.

Patna Division.

60. In the district of Patna the attempts of certain landlords to get raiyati lands treated as *zirat* by methods contrary to the provision of the Tenancy Act are said to be one of the chief causes of complaint, specially in the Dinapore subdivision. In the Bihar subdivision complaints of attempts to enhance illegally the tenants' rents are not uncommon. The prevalence of absenteeism among the landlords has led to frequent disputes between their *amla* and the tenants, and in the Futwah thana of this subdivision disputes are also reported owing to the attempts of the landlords to convert *nagdi* into *bhaoli* holdings, and to substitute payments of rents by appraisement for that by division of produce. In Gaya the relations between landlords and tenants generally continue to be satisfactory.

Rent suits.

61. The total number of suits of all kinds instituted in the Orissa Division during the year showed an increase of 1,887, being 30,284 against 28,397 in the previous year. All the districts of this Division shared the increase except Puri, where there is a slight decrease which calls for no remarks. The number of suits instituted for recovery of arrears of rent increased slightly, viz., from 18,538 to 18,646. As compared with the last year there was a decrease in the districts of Cuttack and Puri and an increase in Balasore and Sambalpur. In the Chota Nagpur Division 7,095 suits for the recovery of arrears of rent were instituted as against 5,949 in the previous year, showing an increase of 1,146. This increase is shared by the districts of Hazaribagh, Ranchi and Palamau, while there was a decrease of 219 and 33 suits in Manbhum and Singhbhum, respectively. The large increase in Hazaribagh and Ranchi (704 and 663, respectively) was due mainly to two limitation periods having fallen within the year. The last day of one *Sambut* year fell in March 1906, while that of the previous *Sambut* year was in April 1905. In the former district, moreover, a large number of suits for arrears of rent was instituted by the Raja of Pudma. In Ranchi the considerable increase (1,411) in the number of miscellaneous applications is due to the fact that the raiyats now deposit their rents into the Treasury as a protest against demands for enhanced rent or new *rakumats* and the refusal of the landlords to grant proper receipts.

Working of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

62. In the greater part of the Lower Provinces the Bengal Tenancy Act governs the relations between landlord and tenant. It is generally reported that the Act worked smoothly throughout the year and that there are signs that landlords aud tenants are becoming more familiar with its provisions. The Collector of Nadia remarks that in several instances proceedings under Chapter X of the Act were instituted on the application of the raiyats, and that they often sought the protection of the Civil Courts when the landlords interfered with their rights. In some places, however, the object of the law is frustrated by powerful and unscrupulous zamindars who endeavour to exact illegal demands, such as marriage fees, periodical services, price of rent receipt forms, *nazar*, &c. It is reported that in the Orissa Division, though the beneficial effect of the Act is understood by all, yet the tenants, being poor, are not always able to preserve their rights in cases where they are violated by the landlords It is hoped that the introduction of the system of payment of rent by money order will operate as a salutary check on illegal exaction. In view of the reports received on the Amendment Bill which was circulated for opinion in 1904, a fresh Bill was drafted and submitted for the consideration of a Committee composed of Revenue and Judicial officers and representative landholders, with the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rampini as President. The Bill, as revised by the Committee, is now under the consideration of Government. On the recommendation of the local officers, the provisions of sections 93 to 100 of the Act regarding the appointment of a common manager for estates in which disputes prevail were extended to the Division of Orissa during the year. A proposal has also been submitted to the Government of India for the extension to this Division of the provisions of Chapter XI regarding the record of proprietors' private lands.

CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.

Legislative Authority.

See—
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902—PART II, PAGES 179—181.

Course of Legislation.

Acts passed during 1905-1906.

63. Four Acts were passed by the Bengal Council during the year 1905-1906.

Bengal Act IV of 1905.

Bengal Act IV of 1905 [*The Calcutta Port* (*Amendment*) *Act, 1905*].—This Act received the assent of the Governor-General on the 26th September 1905. The object of this Act is to increase the constitution of the Port Commission to 17 members in place of 15 members; to provide for the adequate representation of the interests of Howrah in the Port of Calcutta; and to empower the Commissioners to improve and regulate the means of communication across and along the river Hooghly within the limits of the Port of Calcutta. The Act also enables the Commissioners to build vessels for carrying passengers within the Port of Calcutta and to charge fares for that service.

Bengal Act V of 1905.

Bengal Act V of 1905 [*The Chota Nagpur Tenancy* (*Amendment*) *Act, 1905*].—This Act was passed by the Bengal Council on the 18th November 1905, and received the assent of the Governor-General on the 2nd December 1905. It is designed to make a purely formal and verbal amendment in section 164 of the Chota Nagpur Landlord and Tenant Procedure Act (Bengal Act I of 1879) which was added by the Chota Nagpur Tenancy (Amendment) Act (Bengal Act V of 1903), so as to remove all doubt and to give full effect to the intention of section 164 to make all entries in records-of-rights relating to Mundari khunt-kattidari tenancies conclusive evidence.

Bengal Act VI of 1905.

Bengal Act VI of 1905 [*The Calcutta and Suburban Police Superannuation Fund Act, 1905*].—This Act was passed by the Bengal Council on the 2nd December 1905, and received the assent of the Governor-General on the 16th idem. It abolished the "Calcutta and Suburban Police Superannuation Fund," constituted by Bengal Act I of 1890, it being considered undesirable that deductions of any kind should be made from the pay of the lower ranks of the police force.

Bengal Act I of 1906.

Bengal Act I of 1906 [*The Bengal Court of Wards* (*Amendment*) *Act, 1906*].—This Act was passed by the Bengal Council on the 3rd March 1906, and received the assent of the Governor-General on the 21st idem. It makes various amendments in the Court of Wards Act (Bengal Act IX of 1879) so as to facilitate the investment of Trust Funds in loans to wards' estates, to provide for the prompt ascertainment of the liabilities of wards' properties and speedy adjudication of claims against them, to remove all doubt as to whether employés of the Court of Wards are public servants, and to prevent proprietors whose property is under charge of the Court under the second clause of section 11 of the Act, or charge of whose property has been retained for the purpose of discharging debts, from alienating or creating any charge on such property.

Bills.

64. No action was taken by the Council in respect of the Excise Bill or the Local Self-Government Bill.

The Bengal Land Registration (*Amendment*) *Bill, 1905*, was introduced in Council on the 18th November 1905, and was passed on the 10th March 1906, and is now Bengal Act II of 1906. It empowers the Board of Revenue to introduce such changes in the form of the registers to be kept under the Act as may from time to time prove desirable, and, in addition to several minor amendments which the working of the Act has shown to be necessary, prescribes a uniform fee of two rupees for applications for the opening of a separate account whether made under the Land Registration Act, or under the Bengal Land Revenue Sales Act, 1859.

The Bengal Disorderly Houses Bill, 1905, was introduced in Council on the 8th July 1905 and was passed on the 10th March 1906, and is now Bengal Act III of 1906. It empowers Magistrates of the first class to direct the discontinuance of the use of houses: (1) as brothels, or by disorderly persons, in proximity to any educational institution or to the annoyance of respectable residents, or (2) as brothels, in the immediate neighbourhood of a cantonment. It applies in the first instance to all provincial municipalities; but power is taken to extend it, as occasion may require, to non-municipal areas.

Police.

[The Report on the Administration of the Police Department for the year 1905; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section VII.]

Strength of the Force.

65. In consequence of the transfer of 14 districts to the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, 20 appointments of Superintendents and 20 of Assistant Superintendents have been transferred to that Province with effect from the 16th October 1905. One of the reforms, recommended by the Police Commission, which was effected during the year, was the increase in the subordinate staff by 681 officers and men, of whom the majority were appointed for investigation work. There was a large deficiency in the actual strength of head-constables and constables, but this was due to the fact that the men were under instruction at the newly-created Constables' Training Schools. Sub-Inspectors were mostly recruited by nomination, but a few deserving head-constables were also promoted to this rank. As in 1904, the new appointments were distributed among the Divisions in proportion to the strength of the investigating force entertained in each, the natives of each Division being regarded as having the first claim to the vacancies so allotted to it. It is satisfactory to note that the last batch of recruits was superior both intellectually and physically to its predecessors and that the recruits were a better class all round than those in previous years. Superintendents are exclusively responsible for the recruitment of local constables for their districts.

Training of Officers.

66. There was practically no change in the course of instruction at the Police Training School at Bhagalpur. It is satisfactory to see that the results were the best yet obtained, only 12 cadets having failed to pass the final examination out of a total of 263 examinees. During the year under review two schools for the training of constables and head-constables were started on the lines recommended by the Police Commission, one at Nathnagar, district Bhagalpur, for the training of up-country men, and the other at Purulia, district Manbhum, for the training of Bengalis. It is satisfactory to record that the constables from the Nathnagar Training School, who were deputed to Calcutta on duty during the visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, were complimented on their good conduct and steady behaviour.

Discipline.

67. The percentage of officers departmentally punished was 12·9 as against 13·3 in 1904, but the percentage of men departmentally punished has risen from 6·7 to 10·1. Of the latter nearly one-third were town chaukidars, a class which is being superseded by town constables. Fewer members of the force were convicted under the Penal Code than last year. Whilst the number of officers punished under that Code scarcely varied, the number of men convicted was less, being ·7 per cent. of the entire force. Three cases of torture were brought against the police, one of which was declared to be true; in the second case the accused was convicted, and the third resulted in an acquittal. There were 37 charges of extortion; out of these 19 were either declared false or dismissed under section 203 of the Criminal Procedure Code, or ended in discharge, while only 13 ended in punishment, judicial or departmental.

Health of Force.

68. The health of the force was slightly better than in the previous year and the average detention of the sick in hospital was slightly less.

Town Police.

69. There has been an improvement in the work of the town chaukidars and town constables. Over 236 arrests were made by night watchmen, to whom rewards were granted in almost all cases. The increase in the number of arrests is attributed to the more direct interest taken by Superintendents in the working of the Town Police. The Town Police itself is in a state of

transition. During the year 240 chaukidars were replaced by constables. Ultimately all town chaukidars will be replaced by constables, and the establishment will, on the recommendation of the Police Commission, be augmented by the addition of several officers.

Rural Police.

70. The necessity of restricting the number of village chaukidars to actual requirements and the advisability of reducing and amalgamating charges when opportunity occurs has received attention during the year, as in place of the steady increase of previous years, there is a small falling off, namely, 50 men out of a total of 85,443 appointed under Act VI (B.C.) of 1870. In the case of chaukidars appointed under Act VI (B.C.) of 1887, there has, on the other hand, been an increase from 8,729 to 8,816, and the number of men appointed under Regulation XX of 1817 rose from 4,483 to 5,084.

River Police.

71. It is satisfactory to note that in the 24-Parganas the system of beats established along the embankments is again reported to have proved effective in preventing crime. The officer who had been placed on special duty in connection with the general question of the consideration of a scheme for the establishment of a separate River Police Force was prevented by his other duties from finishing his report last year. He has again been deputed to this Province to enable him to complete the report.

Reforms.

72. The year under review has been remarkable for the number of reforms that have been introduced consequent on the recommendations of the Police Commission. The pay of all subordinate ranks has been raised to the prescribed minimum sanctioned by the Government of India; new grades for Inspectors on Rs. 175 and for Sub-Inspectors on Rs. 100 have been created; the armed police formerly known as the District Police Reserve has been strengthened; European Inspectors have been appointed to 24 out of 33 districts, and in 10 districts European Sergeants have been appointed to assist them; the Provincial Criminal Investigation Department has been organized; the system of deputing plain clothes constables to railway stations to look after the movements of bad characters has been introduced; the system of employing travelling constables in railway trains has been partially introduced; constables are exchanged for short periods with those of neighbouring thanas of adjoining districts so that they may obtain personal acquaintance with bad characters, and arrangements have been made with the Nepal Darbar for the interchange of information regarding border criminals.

Cognizable Crime.

73. The total number of cognizable offences reported during the year was 115,463 as against 127,716 in 1904. The decrease is, however, more apparent than real, being due to direct cases declared false by Magistrates being excluded from the revised statement introduced on the recommendation of the Police Commission. Excluding cases of offences against religion, public nuisances and offences under special and local laws, the percentage of police cases ending in conviction to cases decided was 77 per cent.; including the above offences, it was 89, whilst the percentage of convictions to cases enquired into by the police was 44 as compared with 31·4 of the preceding year. The percentage of convictions in Sessions cases is 75·1, which is a little higher than in the preceding year. Murshidabad and Manbhum again show the worst results. It is stated that the excessive number of acquittals in Manbhum was due in great part to defects in the supervising and investigating staff which have now been put right.

False cases.

74. There has been a slight decrease in the number of cases declared false from 3,435 in 1904 to 3,191 in the year under review; the largest numbers are reported from Bihar and the 24-Parganas. The percentage of prosecutions to false cases rose from 13·2 to 15·7, but that of convictions fell from 43·5 to 42·2. Burdwan, Patna, Gaya, Shahabad, Darbhanga, Monghyr and Singhbhum show a large increase in the number of prosecutions over that of last year, indicating that the subject has received special attention in these districts.

Remands.

75. Attention must again be drawn to the number of remands granted in the trial of police cases. The percentage of cases decided at the first two hearings has remained almost stationary, but the percentage of cases remanded more than six times has risen from 3·2 to 3·9. Various reasons have been offered for the frequency of the remands, but a stricter supervision over

criminal work by District Officers should lead to an improvement in this matter.

Serious Crime: Rioting.

76. An examination of the figures regarding serious crime shows that there has been a slight increase in the number of rioting cases, the increase being most marked in the Burdwan and Patna Divisions. There was a decrease in the Bhagalpur Division said to be due to prompt preventive action on the part of the thana officers and the Village Police in Monghyr. Judicial results were on the whole satisfactory, the percentage of cases convicted to cases disposed of being 77 as compared with 61 of the previous year. In no Division except Chota Nagpur were persons imprisoned in default of furnishing security under section 106 of the Criminal Procedure Code. But in Chota Nagpur 99 persons were bound down to keep the peace under this section, of whom 37 were imprisoned in default of furnishing security; the figures for this Division for the previous year were 92 and 10, respectively. These figures seem to indicate that the security demanded is higher than the people can give and not that they were unwilling to give security. The Commissioner will be requested to obtain a report on this matter.

Murder, &c.

77. The number of serious crimes against the person decreased from 3,863 to 3,500. The total number of cases of murder fell from 280 in 1904 to 248 in 1905. Of such cases as well as of culpable homicide, the Patna Division returns the highest numbers. There was an extraordinary and unexplained fall from 489 to 241 in the numbers of reported attempts at and abetments of suicide.

Dacoity, &c.

78. Dacoity and robbery each show a slight increase. It is most marked in Manbhum, where the number of dacoity cases rose from 11 to 38. These offences, which are believed to be the work of up-country coolies working in the coal-mines and in the extensive railway constructions, have been engaging the attention of the Criminal Investigation Department, who have, as a result of their enquiries, instituted several important gang cases. It is satisfactory to note that in Midnapore the number of dacoities has fallen from 60 to 34. This is reported to be due to the successful prosecution of certain Lodha dacoits and to the conviction of a large number of bad characters. There was an increase in the number of burglaries, to which Saran, Shahabad, the Sonthal Parganas, Monghyr and Khulna contribute the largest numbers. In Saran the increase is attributed to better reporting and to partial failure of the crops, in Shahabad to the plague, and in Khulna and the Sonthal Parganas to better reporting alone. The number of cases of cattle theft also increased in the year under review. It is hoped that in the Sonthal Parganas, where the increase is most noticeable and where the crime seems to be due to professionals, the efforts of the Criminal Investigation Department to suppress the crime will be attended with success.

Bad Livelihood Cases.

79. There was a decrease in the number of bad-livelihood cases instituted under section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Railway Police.

80. A decrease is reported in the number of railway offences. This is due to a change which has been made in the rules concerning missing goods. Such cases were all formerly investigated as thefts, but are now only instituted if, after a preliminary enquiry, it appears that there are reasonable grounds for believing that a cognizable offence has been committed. Cases of theft on the Bengal lines alone decreased from 3,390 to 2,493. It is satisfactory to note that the number of cases of obstruction has decreased from 65 to 29. In 17 of these, stones were placed on the line by mischievous children. Out of eight cases sent up by the police, seven ended in conviction and the other in acquittal.

Criminal Investigation Department.

81. The Criminal Investigation Department during the year under review did very valuable work, particularly in connection with the investigation of the promissory note forgery cases. After examining 64 cases of forgery, the currency note forgeries dating back to 1882 and the promissory note forgeries were traced to one and the same gang of forgers, who had for their accomplices certain Bank of Bengal employees. In the end four cases were instituted, one in connection with a fraud in the French Bank in 1900, a second relating to an alleged fraud on the Bank of Bengal in 1901, a third in connection with the same Bank in the same year, and the last relating to a fraud on the Allahabad Bank in 1904 when the forgers obtained Rs. 80,000

under false pretences. Five persons received punishment varying from 5 to 10 years' imprisonment. The Calcutta Police and the Criminal Investigation Department worked hand in hand in the conduct of the investigations. It is reported that since these convictions the circulation of forged Government currency notes has almost ceased. The Department investigated several gang cases which led to the conviction of 113 persons under sections 400 and 401 of the Indian Penal Code; in the course of these investigations 327 dacoities and 211 burglaries were traced to the gangs.

* Mortality from wild beasts and snakes.

82. The total number of persons killed by wild animals in 1905 was 808, against 885 in 1904. The districts which showed the highest mortality were Angul, Cuttack, Hazaribagh and Khulna. The number of deaths caused by elephants fell from 14 to 9. As in the previous year, 6 persons were killed by these animals in the district of Darjeeling alone. The Commissioner of Bhagalpur has addressed the Government regarding the depredations committed by wild elephants in the Terai, and the matter is under consideration. The number of deaths caused by tigers rose from 362 to 390, the increase being shared by all the Divisions except the Presidency and Patna. The mortality caused by tigers was highest in the Angul district, where the number of deaths rose from 32 in the preceding year to 80, a noticeable but apparently fortuitous increase. In Palamau the number killed rose from 4 to 26 and in Singhbhum from 59 to 70. Two man-eaters, for the destruction of each of which a reward of Rs. 500 was sanctioned, were killed during the year under report—one in the district of Champaran and another in the district of Hazaribagh. The number of deaths caused by leopards fell from 149 to 104. It is satisfactory to notice that the number of persons killed by wolves decreased from 110 to 56, the decrease being most noticeable in Hazaribagh, where 21 persons were killed as against 77 in 1904. The number of persons who died from snake-bites was 8,245 against 7,962 in 1904, and the Patna Division as usual showed the highest mortality. Eighteen thousand four hundred and twenty-seven head of cattle were killed by wild animals against 16,637 in the previous year, the districts returning the highest mortality being Palamau and Hazaribagh. There was no marked variation in the figures of any particular district except Ranchi, where the number of cattle killed rose from 1,114 to 1,761, the ravages being attributed chiefly to leopards. An increase is also noticed in the districts of Sambalpur, Khulna, Jessore and Purnea.

The number of cattle killed by snakes was as usual insignificant, being only 316 in the whole province, but, as stated in previous years, the figures can hardly be regarded as accurate.

Police Administration in the Town of Calcutta.

[The Annual Report on the Police Administration of the Town of Calcutta and its Suburbs for the year 1905.]

General.

83. In August 1905, the scheme for the reorganization of the Calcutta Police was sanctioned by the Government of India. It is now being gradually introduced. Some of the chief reforms that have so far been effected are the increase of the minimum pay of Native Constables and that of the European Constables, now called Sergeants; the increase in the numbers of Sergeants, Native Constables and of Native officers, who are now called Head Constables; and the abolition of the system of making deductions from the pay of members of the force on account of the Superannuation Pension Fund, Government having undertaken to pay all pensions and gratuities from general revenues. The total strength of the staff has also been slightly increased.

Discipline.

84. The morale of the force appears to be improving. There were fewer dismissals and departmental punishments than last year. The number of members of the force judicially punished has also fallen from 18 to 10 (1 officer and 9 men). It is satisfactory to note that the number of resignations without pension or gratuity has fallen from 321 to 236. Doubtless this is due

* [The information given in this paragraph is not taken from the Police Report but from a separate report submitted to the Government of India.]

to the improved prospects of the Police, but some explanation should be forthcoming for the increase in the number of desertions from 50 to 94. Allowing for the increase in the strength of the force the numbers of the Police, both officers and men, who can read and write, compare favourably with those of last year.

Statistics of offences.

85. There has been a decrease of about 1,500 in the number of true cognizable cases reported direct to the Police and instituted on complaint to a Magistrate. The falling off relates mainly to cases of public nuisances and offences against the Town and Suburban Police Acts during the last four months of the year, a time of considerable public excitement and numerous strikes, when the Police had their hands full of other miscellaneous duties. There has been little fluctuation in the number of cases tried under the Penal Code. It is curious that the decrease in the number of burglaries in the town of Calcutta is almost exactly counterbalanced by the increase in the suburbs. It is reported that this increase, to which attention was drawn last year, is due to the influx of up-country coolies to various works going on in the suburbs. The number of non-cognizable cases instituted shows an increase from 13,859 in 1904 to 15,349 in 1905, of which 9,706 ended in conviction.

Results of cases.

86. The percentage of convictions in cases tried by the Presidency Magistrates was high, namely 84, as compared with 80 and 90 in the two preceding years. The High Court tried 59 cases, and the Alipore Sessions Court 32; 52 and 27 of these cases, respectively, ended in conviction. Good work was done in connection with the investigation and prosecution of the gang of forgers who had for years been perpetrating a series of frauds by means of forged Government Promissory Notes on well-known banks. Professional crime has been adequately dealt with: 308 bad characters and 102 receivers of stolen property were prosecuted and convicted. Three gang cases were prosecuted during the year, two of which ended in conviction, while the third is still pending.

Juvenile offences.

87. Twenty-seven juvenile offenders were sent to the Reformatory School during the year, 24 from the town and 3 from the suburbs against 14 from the town in the previous year. Sixty-two first offenders were dealt with under section 562, Criminal Procedure Code, against 38 in 1904. The increased use of this section of the law is satisfactory.

Criminal Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Province of Bengal during the year 1905; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section IV.]

General.

88. The figures for area and population have been calculated on the basis of the census of 1901. For Sessions work, the staff consisted of 18 Sessions Judges and 2 Additional Sessions Judges employed throughout the year. Three Subordinate Judges were vested with the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge, one of whom only exercised these powers for 13 days. He decided 15 Sessions cases.

The Magisterial staff employed at the close of the year, including that of the Presidency Town, consisted of 343 Stipendiary and 1,193 Honorary Magistrates. These figures represent an increase of 41 and 40, respectively, on the numbers of the previous year. One Special Magistrate appointed under section 14 of the Code of Criminal Procedure was employed on criminal work at Shahadad and decided three cases. Of the 343 Stipendiary Magistrates, 202 exercised first class powers, 75 second, and 66 third.

There were 146 Benches of Magistrates constituted from among 1,115 Honorary Magistrates working during the year in the mufassal, two new Benches having been created in the district of Ranchi, and one Bench having been abolished in the district of Saran. Of the total, 126 were independent, and 20 were restricted to the trial of cases under the Municipal Act.

Offences reported.

89. There were 227,404 criminal offences reported during the year, an increase of 1,572 on the figures of 1904. Of the total, 133,415 were under the Indian Penal Code and 93,989 under Special and Local Laws. These totals are more by 2,120 and less by 548, respectively, than those of 1904. The increase was most marked in Gaya, the Presidency Town, Saran, and Ranchi, and the decrease in Nadia, Burdwan, Palamau, and Darbhanga.

PROTECTION.

False cases.

90. Including cases pending inquiry at the close of 1904, the number of cases found to be false or in which complaints were dismissed was 35,919 or 15·7 per cent. of the number reported during the year. The percentage for 1904 was 16·3. Of the total in 1905, complaints were dismissed in 29,207 cases, or 30 more than in 1904. The number of cases declared to be false after trial or inquiry was considerably less than in 1904.

True cases.

91. Of the total number of cases under inquiry during the year, 190,334 were found to be true, and of these, 143,699 were brought to trial. Inquiries were pending at the close of the year in 8,409 cases. Compared with 1904, the number of cases found to be true shows an increase of 1,104, and of cases brought to trial, a decrease of 1,764.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—Magistrates' Courts.

92. Of the total number of cases brought to trial, 34,274 were in the courts of the Police and Municipal Magistrates in the Presidency Town, and 109,425 in the courts of Magistrates in the mufassal.

COURTS IN CALCUTTA.

Presidency Magistrates, Calcutta.

93. The number of cases brought before Presidency Magistrates, including the Municipal Magistrate, was less by 1,674 than in 1904. The number of cases under Special and Local Laws was 29,144, or 2,055 less than in 1904; while cases under the Penal Code rose from 4,749 to 5,130. The decrease under the former head was mainly due to the fact that the number of offences under the Police Act fell from 14,067 to 11,478. The number of offences under the Port Act, however, rose from 2,057 to 2,786—the number of offences which actually occurred in 1904—out of which 1,872 were erroneously entered under the Police Act in the statement appended to last year's report. Offences under the Motor Car and Cycle Act rose from 5 to 24. As regards offences under the Penal Code, there was an increase of 709 in prosecutions for offences affecting public health.

Before Presidency Magistrates, other than the Municipal Magistrate, 25,502 cases were disposed of during the year, of which 24,037 were before Stipendiary Magistrates, 1,167 before Honorary Magistrates sitting singly, and 298 before Benches. In 1904, the same officers disposed of 27,003 cases, of which 24,936 were before Stipendiary Magistrates, 1,080 before Honorary Magistrates sitting singly, and 987 before Benches. There were 86 cases pending at the close of the year. Of the total number disposed of, 61 were committed to the High Court, and the remainder were finally decided by Magistrates; 1,200 being under ordinary, and the remainder under summary, procedure. The number of witnesses examined before the Police Magistrates was 16,029.

The number of cases brought before the court of the Municipal Magistrate during the year was 8,739, of which 7,766 were cases under the Municipal Act. The number of cases disposed of was 8,811, of which 7,974 were decided under the summary procedure and 70 cases remained pending at the close of the year.

Results of trials.

94. The aggregate number of persons under trial before the Presidency Magistrates other than the Municipal Magistrate was 26,908. Of the persons tried, 2,828 were acquitted or discharged, 23,903 were convicted, one person was transferred for trial to another court, 85 persons were committed to the Sessions, and 91 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of persons tried for offences under the Penal Code, 4,230 were convicted and 1,668 acquitted or discharged. The results of the trials before each class of Magistrates during the year were:—

	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of conviction.
Stipendiary Magistrates	2,315	22,729	90·7
Benches of Magistrates	192	175	47·6
Honorary Magistrates sitting singly ...	321	999	75·6

Of the persons convicted, 1,321 were punished with rigorous imprisonment, the sentences in the case of 17 persons including terms of solitary confinement; 25 were punished with simple imprisonment; 21,429 with fine; and 375 with whipping. Ninety-one of the persons sentenced to fine and 118 of those sentenced to whipping were so sentenced in addition to other punishments. Twenty-four sentences of imprisonment were, in the case of youthful offenders, commuted to detention in a Reformatory School. Five hundred and twenty-five convicted persons were warned and discharged.

In addition to these sentences, 214 persons were required to furnish security for good behaviour, of whom 213 were imprisoned in default for terms not exceeding one year, and one for three years on reference to the High Court; three persons convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace were ordered to excute bonds to keep the peace; 44 persons were released on probation under section 562, Criminal Procedure Code; and various miscellaneous orders were passed under Special Laws in the case of 701 persons.

Before the Municipal Magistrate 10,325 persons were under trial during the year, of whom 9,333 were convicted, 894 were acquitted or discharged, five died, escaped, or were transferred for trial to other courts, and 93 remained under trial at the close of the year. The number of witnesses examined was 2,250, or 662 less than in 1904. The percentage of conviction was 91·2. Of the persons convicted, 5,263 were punished with fines, one with rigorous imprisonment, and the rest were ordered to comply with the various requirements of the rules and bye-laws of the Corporation.

II.—Magistrates Outside Calcutta.

Magistrates outside Calcutta.

95. At the opening of the year, 2,460 cases, excluding cases of lunatics, were pending before Magistrates outside Calcutta. During the year 109,497 cases, including references under sections 347 and 349, Criminal Procedure Code, were brought to trial, and 109,189 were disposed of, 2,722 remaining pending at its close. Cases brought to trial were less than in 1904 by 28. In cases under the Indian Penal Code the decrease was chiefly in offences affecting the human body.

Excluding the newly added district of Sambalpur, an increase in the number of cases instituted is reported from 13, and a decrease from 17, districts. The increase was marked in Gaya (1,550), the 24-Parganas (953), Ranchi (711), Patna (431),and Murshidabad (369), while the decrease was greatest in Nadia (1,360), Howrah (736), Hooghly (642), Burdwan (585), and Darbhanga (475).

The disposals were distributed as follows:—

	Tried regularly.	Tried summarily.
District Magistrates	935	104
Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates ...	49,775	25,692
Honorary Magistrates	13,037	683
Benches of Magistrates	6,671	12,170
Special Magistrates	3	...

Of the 935 cases tried regularly by District Magistrates, 28 were decided in the exercise of special powers under section 34 of the Code of Criminal Procedure by the Deputy Commissioners of the Chota Nagpur Division, this being an increase of 13 over the figures for 1904.

In addition to the cases shown above, District and Subdivisional Magistrates decided 119 cases referred to them under sections 347 and 349 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The total number of cases disposed of by District Magistrates was 1,039 as compared with 1,351 in 1904. The largest number of cases was decided by the District Magistrates of Palamau (216), Bankura (135), Puri (120) and Bhagalpur (111).

Results of trials.

96. Of the total number of cases 1,139 were committed or referred to the Sessions and 108,050 were finally disposed of by Magistrates. In these latter, 148,764 persons were accused, this number being 1,502 less than that of 1904. Of the total, 90,505, or 60·8 per cent., were convicted, and 58,259 or 39·2 per cent. were acquitted or discharged. In 1904, 60·9 per cent. of the persons tried were convicted.

Of the persons tried for offences under the Indian Penal Code, 32,305, or 41·1 per cent., were convicted, and 46,282, or 58·9 per cent., were acquitted or discharged.

The total number of persons awaiting trial before Magistrates at the close of 1905 was 5,426 as compared with 4,532 of 1904. Of these, 18, all of whom were on bail, were awaiting trial for more than six months. Explanations of the delay in the disposal of the cases pending for more than six months, submitted by the Magistrates concerned, have been considered by the High Court and the necessary orders have been passed on them. The number of persons in custody at the close of the year was 616.

The general result of trials before Magistrates of each class was as follows:—

	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of convictions.
Benches of Magistrates ...	5,657	15,882	73·7
Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates	44,962	63,055	58·3
Honorary Magistrates ...	6,489	10,860	62·5
Special Magistrates	2	1	33·3
District Magistrates	1,149	707	38·9

Of the persons shown as convicted above, the numbers tried summarily were by Benches of Magistrates, 12,176; by Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates, 27,722; by Honorary Magistrates, 742; and by District Magistrates, 125.

The mode of trial of the total number of persons convicted and the nature of the sentences passed were as follows:—

	Appealable sentences.	Non-appealable sentences.
On Regular trial	39,036	10,704
On Summary trial	9,088	31,677

Punishments.

97. The sentences passed on persons convicted were as follows:—

Transportation		1
Imprisonment	Rigorous	15,979
	Simple	456
Fine	With imprisonment	2,283
	Without imprisonment	68,191
Whipping	Sole punishment	1,043
	Additional punishment	193

A term of solitary confinement was included in 347 of the sentences of rigorous imprisonment, and in the case of 38 youthful offenders, the sentence of imprisonment was commuted to detention in a Reformatory School. Two thousand five hundred and ten persons were called upon to give security to be of good behaviour, 2,364 of whom were sentenced to terms of imprisonment not exceeding one year on failing to comply with the orders, and 199 persons were released on probation under section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Against persons who had previously been so released, proceedings were subsequently taken in 70 instances, and 74 persons were convicted and punished. In addition to substantive punishments, 2,704 persons were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, of whom 978 were convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace.

Of the sentences of imprisonment imposed, 3,395 were for terms not exceeding 15 days; 10,865 for terms not exceeding six months; 4,453 for terms not exceeding two years; and 48 for terms exceeding two years.

Sentences of whipping were 127 less than in the preceding year.

The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 4,87,306. During the year, Rs. 4,35,969 were realised; and Rs. 45,666 were paid as compensation to complainants out of the fines realised.

Miscellaneous Proceedings under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

98. In addition to criminal trials, the following were the more important classes of work dealt with by Magistrates in the mufassal during the year.

There were 1,166 proceedings under Chapter VIII, Criminal Procedure Code, to prevent a breach of the peace, in which 4,861 persons were involved. The number of cases and the persons involved therein were considerably less than in 1904. Of the persons concerned, 1,726 were required to execute

bonds to keep the peace, in addition to the persons mentioned in the preceding paragraph as having been similarly bound down on conviction. The number of persons dealt with under this chapter was largest in Jessore (659), Howrah (363), Midnapore (351), and Shahabad (346).

In 1,718 cases, 3,494 persons were called upon to show cause why they should not give security to be of good behaviour, and the orders were made absolute against 2,748 of them. Of the latter, 2,602 failed to give the required security and were imprisoned in default, 238 after reference to the Court of Session under section 123 of the Code, and 2,364 under orders of Magistrates for terms not exceeding one year.

Witnesses.

99. The number of witnesses examined in the Courts of Magistrates in the mufassal was 297,343 as compared with 308,746 in 1904. The number who attended and were discharged without examination was 104,079, or 25·9 per cent., of the whole number in attendance. In the preceding year the percentage was 24·3. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses of their attendance rose from Rs. 33,248 in 1904 to Rs. 36,602 in 1905.

Of the total number in attendance, 322,302 (80·2 per cent.) were discharged on the first day; 58,544 (14·6 per cent.) on the second; 15,048 (3·8 per cent.) on the third; and 5,528 (1·4 per cent.) after the third day. The number of witnesses detained for more than three days shows an increase of 345 over the number so detained in 1904.

The districts in which the largest proportion of witnesses were detained for more than three days were Birbhum and Sambalpur (3 per cent.), Muzaffarpur (2·8 per cent.), Patna (2·4 per cent.), Gaya and Monghyr (2·3 per cent.). Explanations of these detentions have, as usual, been considered by the High Court, and orders have been passed on them.

Courts of Session.

Commitments.

100. The number of cases committed for trial or referred during the year was 1,139, or 35 less than in 1904; and the number of cases disposed of, including pending cases of the previous year, was 1,134, which falls short of the number disposed of in 1904 by 59. There were 107 cases pending at the close of the year. Commitments increased in Hooghly from 40 to 57, in Champaran from 22 to 36, in Cuttack from 18 to 28, in Ranchi from 25 to 33, and in Singhbhum from 11 to 19. On the other hand, they fell in Midnapore from 111 to 67, in the Sonthal Parganas from 65 to 33, in Nadia from 41 to 21, in Khulna from 42 to 31, and in Patna from 54 to 44. The number in Saran was the same as in 1904. The number of commitments was largest in the 24-Parganas (102).

Results of trials.

101. There were 2,692 persons, or 221 less than in 1904, under trial before Courts of Session during the year. The cases of 2,437 persons were decided, and 241 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of the 2,437 persons tried, 1,556, or 63·8 per cent., were convicted, and 813 were acquitted or discharged, and the cases of 68 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Punishments.

102. The following sentences were passed by the Courts of Session during the year:—

Death		26
Transportation	For life	100
	For a term of years	88
Imprisonment	Rigorous	1,109
	Simple	10
Fine		40
Whipping		29

In the case of 64 out of the 1,109 persons sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, the sentences included terms of solitary confinement; and in the case of one youthful offender, the sentence of imprisonment was commuted to detention in a Reformatory School. Additional punishments were inflicted upon 37 of the persons sentenced to fine, and on 27 of those sentenced to whipping. Besides the above, 238 persons were sentenced to rigorous or simple imprisonment (51 for terms not exceeding one year and 187 for terms between one

year and three years), on failure to furnish security for good behaviour, and one person, who had been convicted of an offence involving a breach of the peace, was required to execute a bond with sureties to keep the peace in addition to his substantive punishment.

Sentences of imprisonment were passed for the following terms:—

Not exceeding	15 days	10
	6 months	85
	2 years	339
	7 years	826
Exceeding 7 years		96

Fines to the amount of Rs. 11,109 were imposed by Courts of Session, as compared with Rs. 4,345 imposed in the preceding year. The total realizations of the year aggregated Rs. 3,252, as compared with Rs. 3,354 in 1904. The amount of fines realized and paid as compensation to complainants was Rs. 2,007 in 1905, as compared with Rs. 98 in 1904.

Jury trials. 103. The number of persons tried by Jury during 1905 was 622; and of the persons so tried, the Sessions Judge approved of the verdict of the Jury in respect of 546 persons and disapproved of it in respect of 76. In the case of 42 persons, the Sessions Judge disagreed with the verdict so completely as to consider it necessary for the ends of justice to make a reference to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Trials by Assessors. 104. The number of persons tried with the aid of Assessors during the year under review was 1,423, with the result that in the case of 1,027 persons, the Sessions Judge concurred with the opinion of both the Assessors; in the case of 168, he differed from the opinion of one; and in the case of 228, he differed from the opinion of both the Assessors. The corresponding figures for 1904 were 1,490, 1,128, 119, and 243, respectively.

Duration of cases. 105. The average duration of Sessions trials, from the date of commitment to the date of decision, rose from 35·9 days in 1904 to 36·3 days in 1905. The attention of the Court continues to be paid to the reducing of the period of the duration of Sessions trials, and all cases of unusual duration are carefully scrutinized with this end in view. The duration of cases was notably high in the districts of Bhagalpur (53·3 days), Palamau (49·5 days), and Burdwan (46·2 days).

Witnesses. 106. The number of witnesses in attendance before the Courts of Session was 16,309. Of these, 10,798 were examined and 5,511 discharged without examination. In 1904, the corresponding figures were 10,470 and 5,365 respectively.

Of the total number in attendance, 9,790 (60 per cent.) were discharged on the first day; 3,756 (23 per cent.) on the second day; 1,471 (9·1 per cent.) on the third day; and 1,292 (7·9 per cent.) after the third day. The results show that witnesses were detained for a perceptibly longer period than in 1904. The Court has taken due notice of the long detention of witnesses in reviewing the district reports. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses incurred by them in attending Sessions trials rose from Rs. 21,899 to Rs. 22,815.

Commitments to the High Court. 107. Including 15 cases pending at the opening of the year, 76 cases came before the High Court for trial. Of these, 60 were tried during the year and 16 remained undecided at its close.

Altogether 83 persons were tried, of whom 72 were convicted and 11 acquitted. The number of witnesses examined was 467, and the average duration of cases from commitment, 33·4 days.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

High Court.

Appeals. 108. At the opening of 1905, there were 76 appeals pending before the High Court from sentences or orders of Criminal Courts. During the year, 735 appeals were preferred, 766 were decided, and 45 were pending at its close. The numbers preferred and decided were 34 less and 3 more, respectively, than in 1904, and the pending files showed a decrease of 31.

Of the appeals against sentences preferred during the year, 550 were from Courts of Session, 176 were from Presidency Magistrates, and 8 from Deputy Commissioners exercising special powers under section 34 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. One appeal was preferred by the Local Government against an order of acquittal.

Results of appeals.

109. There were 550 appeals against sentences of Courts of Session decided during the year. The orders of the Lower Courts were upheld in 439 instances, reversed in 25, and modified in 80. Six cases were remanded for retrial.

The results of the appeals decided during the year, as affecting individuals, were that the appeals of 892 persons were summarily dismissed under section 421 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and that, in admitted appeals, sentences on 200 appellants were confirmed, on 1 enhanced, on 117 reduced or altered, and on 85 annulled. In the cases of 7, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered.

Two appeals by the Local Government against orders of acquittal were decided during the year, and in both of them the order was upheld. In one case, which was against a judgment of acquittal on appeal, the accused had been originally convicted of abetting the offences of cheating and intentionally giving false evidence. In the other case, the accused were charged with dacoity.

Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions Courts.

110. There were 114 appeals pending before the Courts of Session at the opening of the year. During the year, 3,423 appeals were preferred, 3,437 were decided, and 93 remained pending at its close. Seven appeals were either transferred to other districts for hearing, or abated on the death of the appellants. The number of appeals preferred to Sessions Judges was less by 409 than in 1904.

In the appeals decided by Sessions Judges during 1905, 5,615 persons were concerned. The appeals of 1,833 of these, or 32·6 per cent., were summarily dismissed; 2,048 appellants, whose appeals were admitted, were altogether unsuccessful; 713 obtained a reduction or alteration of sentence; and 958 were acquitted; in the case of 63 appellants, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered.

The proportion of persons whose appeals were wholly unsuccessful, successful in obtaining a modification of the original orders, and successful in obtaining their reversal, was 69·1, 12·6, and 17, respectively. Of those concerned in admitted appeals only, the same proportions were 54·1, 18·8 and 25·3 per cent. Taking into account admitted appeals only, these results were less favourable to appellants than those of the previous year.

Magistrates' Courts.

111. In the Courts of Magistrates there were 113 appeals pending at the opening of the year. During the year 3,528 appeals were preferred, 3,499 were decided, and 139 remained pending at its close. Three appeals were transferred to other districts for hearing. The number preferred was larger than in 1904 by 440.

The number of persons whose appeals were decided by Courts of Magistrates was 5,971. Of these the appeals of 1,171 were summarily dismissed, and the sentences on 2,669, whose appeals were admitted, were confirmed, making a total of 3,840 wholly unsuccessful appellants, or 64·3 per cent. Of the remainder, 631 appellants, or 10·5 per cent., obtained a modification of the sentences passed on them, and 1,419, or 23·7, their total annulment. In the case of 77 appellants, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered, and four cases were referred to the High Court. These results were more favourable to appellants than those of the previous year.

SUPERINTENDENCE, REFERENCE AND REVISION.

High Court.

References under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

112. Five references under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure from verdicts of Juries were pending in the High Court at the opening of the year and 23 were made during the year. Twenty-five of these references (inclusive of one by a District Magistrate in which a European British subject was concerned) were decided during the year; 3 remaining undecided at

its close. The result of the 25 cases disposed of was that the verdict of the Jury was accepted in 7 cases, set aside in 14, and modified in 2. Two cases were remanded for re-trial.

References under section 374, Code of Criminal Procedure.

113. Twenty-four references under section 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for confirmation of death sentences were made to the High Court during 1905, and 7 were pending before the Court at the opening of the year. Twenty-six were decided during the year, and 5 were pending at its close. In the references decided, 29 persons were concerned. Of these, the death sentence on 20 was confirmed, and in the case of 8 their sentence was commuted to transportation for life. The remaining person was acquitted.

Revision.

114. During the year 142 cases were reported for the orders of the High Court by Sessions Judges and District Magistrates under section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and 14 were pending at the opening of the year. Of these 152 were decided and 4 remained pending. The number reported was 26 less than in 1904. In 78 cases, the orders sent up for revision were set aside or the proceedings quashed, and in 25 a new trial was ordered. Sentences were reduced or altered in 8 cases and enhanced in 8. In the remaining 33 cases the High Court declined to interfere.

Under section 435 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, orders were passed in 860 cases, an increase of 66 on the figures of the previous year. Of these, 835 came before the High Court on applications made to it, and 25 were taken up on review of the periodical Sessions statements submitted by Sessions Judges.

Of the applications for the issue of rules, 416 were rejected. Of 419 rules issued, 139 were finally discharged; 189 were made absolute in their entirety; the orders complained of were modified in 42 cases and quashed in one; and in 48 cases a new trial was ordered.

Applications for transfer.

115. Two applications under section 526 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for the transfer of cases from one court or district to another were on the files at the opening of the year, and 86 were made during the year. All these were dealt with during the year. Twenty were summarily rejected, and in 13 cases transfers were granted without issue of a rule. In 55 cases rules were issued, with the result that transfers were granted in 35 and refused in 20 cases.

Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions Courts.

116. Including accused persons who themselves applied for revision of the orders passed on them in the Courts of Magistrates, and accused persons against whom such applications were made by complainants, the cases of 3,393 persons were decided on revision by Courts of Sessions during the year. The number was less than in 1904 by 251. The applications of 1,565 persons were rejected, and as regards 599, the orders of the Lower Court were confirmed. Orders passed in the cases of 88 persons were reversed; in 12 instances proceedings were quashed; and the order of the Lower Court was modified in the case of one person. In the cases of 929 persons new trials or further inquiries were directed, and the cases of 199 persons were referred to the High Court.

Magistrates' Courts.

117. The cases of 2,085 accused persons who applied for revision, or against whom applications were made by complainants, came before District Magistrates for revision. The number was smaller by 157 than in 1904. Of the total, the applications of 1,074 persons were rejected, and in the cases of 221, the original sentence or order was upheld. Sentences or orders affecting 17 persons were modified, and those affecting 185 were reversed. In the cases of 6 persons, proceedings were quashed, and in those of 544, new trials or further inquiries were directed. The cases of 38 persons were referred to the High Court.

GENERAL.

Trials of European British subjects.

118. The cases of 78 European British subjects were decided during the year, as against 81 in the previous year. Of these, 75 were dealt with by Magistrates, 2 by Courts of Session, and 1 by the High Court. Of the accused persons, 2 claimed to be tried by a mixed Jury.

In the cases of persons disposed of by Magistrates, 38 were convicted and 37 acquitted. The two persons who were tried before the Court of Session were convicted of the offences of criminal trespass and house-breaking.

The case of one person decided by the High Court came before it on a reference by a District Magistrate, under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, against the verdict of acquittal passed by the Jury. The accused was convicted of an offence under the Indian Railways Act, IX of 1890. The largest numbers of European British subjects were tried in Darjeeling (28), Howrah (11), Burdwan (10), the 24-Parganas (9), and Midnapore (5).

Receipts and Charges.

119. Debiting, as usual, to the Administration of Criminal Justice a portion of the salaries of Judicial Officers fixed according to the time which their returns show them to have devoted to it, the total charges for the year amounted to Rs. 21,60,492. Of this amount, Rs. 13,81,604 were for the salaries of Judicial Officers; Rs. 90,972 for fixed and temporary copying establishments; Rs. 61,606 for process-servers; Rs. 3,36,537 for other establishments; and Rs. 2,89,773 for contingencies and refunds.

The receipts amounted to Rs. 11,42,475. Of this amount, Rs. 5,38,628 were under fines; Rs. 1,20,975 under process-fees; Rs. 1,13,466 under copying and comparing fees; Rs. 2,70,351 under court-fee stamp receipts other than the above; and Rs. 99,055 were miscellaneous receipts. The receipts and charges exceeded those of 1904 by over thirty-two thousand and seventy-four thousand rupees, respectively.

Criminal Justice in the Sonthal Parganas and Angul.

120. The number of cases brought to trial in the scheduled districts of the Sonthal Parganas and Angul (including Khondmals) was 6,769. The total number of persons under trial including those remaining from the previous year was 10,810, of whom 4,183 were acquitted or discharged and 6,342 convicted. Of the cases brought to trial 1,241 were under "theft," 850 under "criminal force and assault," 618 under "criminal trespass," and 2,490 under "offences under special and local laws." The total number of appellants and applicants for revision was 662: of these 226 were wholly or partly successful in their applications.

Jails.

[The Report on the Administration of the Jail Department for the year 1905; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section V.]

Jail Population.

121. The total prison population of Bengal, which was 14,448 at the beginning of the year, amounted to 14,872 at its close. The daily average population was 14,934 against 14,797 in 1904: the male population which passed through the jails increased, while the number of females decreased. The daily average population of both sexes, however, shows an increase over the previous year.

Mortality.

122. After some years of steady decline in the death-rate calculated on the daily average numbers of all classes of prisoners, the lowest figure on record was reported last year. The death-rate has, however, risen from 19·5 in 1904 to 25·3 per mille in the year under review, while the rate calculated on the daily average convict population of all jails has risen from 20·0 to 24·7 per mille. In the past year the death-rate has exceeded 40 per mille in four jails. In Burdwan it has risen from 9·4 per mille in 1904 to 43·3 per mille in 1905. The increase is attributed in part to the general unhealthiness of the year and to severe floods which covered the jail garden and rose high within the jail walls. But the principal cause undoubtedly was the persistent overcrowding, in consequence of which a great number of young and healthy prisoners were transferred to other jails, and the remaining population consisted largely of old and feeble men unfit for transfer. In Purulia the mortality was 46·6 per mille. The main barrack is reported to be radically defective, and the Inspector-General will, if necessary, submit proposals for the construction of a new one. In Chaibassa the high rate of 44·1 per mille was largely accidental; there were six deaths among a small population. Finally, there is the case of the Midnapore jail with a mortality among the convict population of 45 per mille. The death-rate of this jail is always considerably above the average for the

province. For the three years ending with 1905 it was 37 per mille per annum. Successive Medical Officers have noted the fact that a large proportion of the prisoners admitted are in bad health. In 1905 no less than 38 per cent. of the prisoners admitted were classed as in bad or weakly health. There are also serious defects in the construction of the barracks. A proposal to raise the roofs and provide ridge ventilation has been generally approved by the Local Government, and plans and estimates are awaited.

Jail Accommodation.

123. It appears that there was overcrowding in 16 jails and in the undertrial wards of 9 jails. In the case of the latter, however, the difficulty was surmounted by providing a separate convict ward for the accommodation of undertrial prisoners. The excess convict population was dealt with by transfers to other jails and by utilising worksheds and verandahs as dormitories. The increased difficulty of providing accommodation owing to the better classification and separation of the prisoners is recognized. It is satisfactory to note that a great deal has been done towards providing segregation wards and enclosures for new convicts. The year has been one of progress in the matter of buildings, and many necessary works have been completed or undertaken. A sum of Rs. 5,31,000 was allotted for the new Presidency Jail, the construction of which is proceeding rapidly. Out of a lump sum of Rs. 1,50,000, Rs. 87,349 were distributed for the building of two new subsidiary jails and other jail works in this province. In addition to these grants, sums amounting to Rs. 1,01,364 were provided for segregation wards at Arrah, Gaya and Monghyr and for various improvements in other jails.

Jail Manufactures.

124. The total profits on manufactures in all jails amounted to Rs. 5,30,163-3 against Rs. 5,57,938-12 in 1904. The total cash profit amounted to Rs. 3,35,506 as against Rs. 4,59,458 in 1904. The net earnings per convict in Central Jails were highest in the Presidency Jail, where they averaged Rs. 132-12, and lowest in Hazaribagh, with Rs. 30-2 per convict. It appears that the decrease in profits is to a considerable extent due to the increase in the price of raw materials.

Prison offences.

125. The total number of offences committed by convicts was 26,416 against 25,595 in 1904, while the punishments inflicted by Superintendents numbered 26,606 as against 25,742. Three thousand three hundred and twelve major punishments were imposed. Corporal punishments, which had increased considerably in 1904, have decreased from 182 to 145. Six convicts escaped during the year, three from inside and three from outside the jails. All were recaptured, as were also four convicts who had escaped in previous years. In 1904 there were five escapes, while the average for the last nine years was 14.

Warder services.

126. One thousand two hundred and eighty punishments were inflicted on warders during the year. Eighty-two warders resigned and three deserted. Considerable discontent prevails among the warders owing to the increase of pay granted to the police and to the illiberal nature of the sick leave rules. A report on the question of improving their pay and prospects is awaited by the Government.

Civil Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Province of Bengal during the year 1905; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section III.]

General.

127. Under the Notification of the Government of India, in the Home Department, dated the 1st September 1905, the districts of Backergunge, Chittagong, Dacca, Dinajpur (except the Darjeeling district), Faridpur, Mymensingh, Noakhali, Pabna-Bogra, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Tippera, which formed part of the Province of Bengal, were made subject to, and included within, the limits of the newly-constituted Lieutenant-Governorship of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, with effect from the 16th October 1905. At the same time the district of Sambalpur (except the Chandarpur-Padampur estate and the Phuljar zamindari), which formed part of the Central Provinces, was transferred to the province of Bengal. This district has been included within the local limits of the jurisdiction of the District Judge of Cuttack; and the district of Darjeeling has been brought under the jurisdiction of the District Judge of Purnea.

The districts which now form the province of Bengal and the returns of which are included in this report are Bankura, Bhagalpur, Birbhum, Burdwan, Cuttack, Gaya, Hooghly, Jessore, Midnapore, Murshidabad, Nadia, Patna, Purnea, Saran, Shahabad, Tirhut, the 24-Parganas and Chota Nagpur. The population of these districts is shown according to the census figures of 1901.

Judicial staff.

128. The permanent Civil Judicial Staff employed in the Province during 1905 consisted of 14 High Court Judges; 18 District Judges; 2 Additional District Judges, one of whom was also employed in a district transferred to the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam; a Chief Judge and four Judges of the Presidency Small Cause Court; two Provincial Small Cause Court Judges, who exercised also the powers of a Subordinate Judge; 35 Subordinate Judges; and 164 Munsifs. In addition, 8 Executive Officers exercised the powers of a Subordinate Judge or Small Cause Court Judge, and two the powers of a Munsif.

There was no variation during the year in the permanent judicial staff. Several officers were, however, employed temporarily during the year.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Original suits instituted.

129. The number of civil suits pending on the Original Side of the High Court at the end of 1904 was 1,259, including 18 pending suits received by transfer from other courts; and the number instituted during 1905 was 962, including four suits received on remand and 19 by transfer from other courts during the year, making a total of 2,221 for disposal in 1905. Of the suits instituted during 1905, 558 were for money or moveable property, 117 were mortgage suits, and 67 for immoveable property.

The value of suits for specific money-claims was Rs. 50,86,664-6-2, as compared with Rs. 57,04,161-3-9 in the previous year.

Original suits disposed of.

130. The number of suits decided in 1905 was 1,121, and the number left undisposed of at the end of the year was 1,100. The number of suits under trial was fewer than at the commencement of the year by 159. There were 520 suits pending over one year, showing a decrease of 53 on the figures of the previous year.

Of the suits decided, 283 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution, 60 were withdrawn with leave, 48 were determined by compromise, 79 were decreed on confession, 202 were decreed *ex-parte*, 17 were dismissed *ex-parte*, 8 were disposed of by reference or arbitration, 352 were decreed after contest, 66 were dismissed after contest.

Extraordinary Jurisdiction.

131. At the commencement of the year one suit was pending in the High Court in its Extraordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction, and two suits were transferred to it during the year. One of them was decreed during the year, and two remained pending at its close.

Probates and Letters of Administration.

132. There were disposed of during the year 458 petitions for Probates and Letters of Administration, 3,500 interlocutory applications (including applications for the appointment of guardians under the Guardians and Wards' Act, for the appointment of guardians *ad litem*, for the appointment of Receivers, for injunctions, for discovery of documents, for execution, etc.), and 1,631 applications for summonses to witnesses. Of the interlocutory applications, those for the appointment of guardians *ad litem*, for the discovery of documents, for special leave to file written statements after time, for summonses as to chamber applications, and for summonses to witnesses were disposed of by the Registrar and Master. The Registrar and Master also disposed of applications of certain other descriptions which previously used to be disposed of by a Judge in chambers.

Appeals from the Original Jurisdiction.

133. The number of appeals from the Original to the Appellate Side of the Court pending at the commencement of 1905 was 55, and 53 new appeals were preferred during the year. Of these appeals, 34 were dismissed for default and 51 were decided; the decrees of the Court of First Instance were affirmed in 34 cases and reversed in 13, and in 4 cases the appeals were remanded. Twenty-three appeals remained undecided at the close of the year.

References from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes.

134. At the commencement of the year no such reference was pending, and none was made during the year under review. Seventeen cases transferred from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes under section 39 of the Presidency Small Cause Court Act were pending at the commencement of the year, and during the year 17 applications under that section were made to the High Court for transfer to that Court. All the applications were granted. Of the 34 cases for disposal two were dismissed after trial, one was decreed *ex-parte*, one was decreed on confession, and one was compromised. The remaining 29 cases were pending at the close of the year.

Insolvency cases.

135. The number of cases pending in the Insolvency Court at the commencement of the year was 183, and the number instituted during the year was 250. Of the 433 cases for disposal 204 cases were disposed of, the adjudication being set aside or superseded in 31 cases and the insolvents obtaining relief in 173 cases; one case was struck off. Of the persons who sought relief in the cases disposed of 92 were traders within the meaning of the Insolvency Act, 75 were private persons, and 38 were persons employed in public and other offices.

Miscellaneous applications.

136. There were also disposed of during the year 48 applications for *ad interim* protection, and 1,248 applications of a miscellaneous character.

Appeals to the Privy Council.

137. Two appeals from the Original Side were pending at the commencement of the year, and ten fresh appeals were admitted during the year under review. The transcript records in two cases were transmitted to the Privy Council during the year, and the remaining ten cases were withdrawn with leave under an order of the Court.

Receipts and Expenditure.

138. The receipts and expenditure of the High Court on the Original Side during 1905 were Rs. 8,43,054-6 and Rs. 3,96,411-6-3, respectively.

II.—Civil Courts in the Mufassal Subordinate to the High Court.

Jurisdiction.

139. During the year under report the Subdivisional officer in charge of the new subdivision of Khunti in Ranchi was, under section 36 of the Bengal, North-Western Provinces, and Assam Civil Courts Act, 1887 (XII of 1887), vested with the powers of a Munsif.

Original suits.

140. The number of suits instituted in 1905 was 403,615. This figure is in excess of that of the previous year by 13,654. Thus the increase in institutions, though less than in previous years, continued during the year.

The increase occurred in each class of suits; the institutions for money and moveables, rent suits and title suits showing increases of 5·7, 2·1 and 2·2 per cent., respectively. The number of suits for "money or moveables" instituted was 151,557, against 143,281 in 1904.

The total value of suits instituted in 1905 amounted to Rs. 12,22,05,798. Of this six crores represent the valuation of a title suit for the recovery of the Bettiah Raj in the district of Champaran.

Local distribution.

141. In all the districts, with the exception of Hooghly, Nadia, Gaya, Patna and Bankura, there was an increase in the number of suits instituted in 1905. In Hooghly the decrease was large, but in the remaining districts it appears to have been slight and casual.

Number of suits disposed of.

142. In addition to the 403,615 suits instituted during the year and the 61,847 suits pending trial from the previous year, there were 10,765 suits revived, or received on remand or review during the year, making a total for disposal of 476,227.

The number of suits disposed of was 409,836. The number was in excess of that for 1904 by 9,443.

Of the total disposed of 386,920 were disposed of by Munsifs, 10,506 by Subordinate Judges, 11,890 by Small Cause Court Judges, and 520 by District and Additional Judges.

Results of suits decided.

143. In the suits disposed of during the year plaintiffs were unsuccessful in 78,992 cases or 19·3 per cent., of which 55,634 were dismissed for default; in 67,048 cases or 16·3 per cent. a compromise was effected; and plaintiffs were successful in 263,796 cases or 64·4 per cent.

Of the 69,528 suits decided on contest 57,510, or 82·6 per cent., resulted in favour of plaintiffs, and 12,018, or 17·4 per cent., in favour of defendants.

144. The proportion of applications for re-trial to the number of cases which were dismissed for default or in which decrees were made *ex-parte* was 8·1, the numbers being 20,459 and 251,359, respectively. The applications were successful in 10,172 cases or 49·7 per cent. The result is normal. Application for re-trial.

145. The suits disposed of by Munsifs were 9,183 more than in the last year. The increase is, however, under uncontested suits, which rose from 313,315 to 323,474, the number of contested suits having decreased from 64,422 to 63,446. The average number of suits disposed of by each Munsif employed throughout the year was 2,289. Disposals under the Small Cause Court procedure form 25·2 per cent. of the total. Suits decided by Munsifs.

The number of contested suits disposed of by Munsifs in 1905 was 63,446, or 16·3 per cent. of the total. The average number of contested suits decided by each Munsif was 375. In suits under the ordinary procedure disposed of by Munsifs the percentage of those contested was 17·1, and in suits under the Small Cause Court procedure 12·3.

The number of cases decided by Munsifs under the ordinary procedure exceeded that of 1904 by 10,914.

146. The number of original suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges in 1905 was 10,506, an increase of 580 on the figures of the previous year. The increase was in cases decided both under the ordinary procedure and in the exercise of Small Cause Court powers, and occurred chiefly in contested suits. The number of suits decided under the ordinary procedure was 4,414, and under the Small Cause Court procedure 6,092; of these, 45·1 per cent. and 22·9 per cent., respectively, were contested. Suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges.

147. The Provincial Small Cause Courts disposed of 11,890 original suits, of which 2,483 were contested. Disposals of Small Cause Courts.

148. The number of suits pending at the close of the year rose from 61,847 to 66,394. This result is due to the increase in the number of suits instituted. Pending suits.

Of the pending cases, 781 have been pending for more than a year, 4,108 for more than six months, and 30,236 for more than three months. There has been only a trifling increase, as compared with the previous year, in the number of suits pending for more than a year. Of the suits pending over one year, 403 were in the courts of Munsifs, and 378 in the courts of District and Subordinate Judges.

149. There were 59,423 applications for execution of decrees pending from the previous year, and 269,287 such applications were made during the year. Realisation was complete in 90,830 cases and partial in 65,392. In 101,181 cases proceedings were returned as infructuous, and 65,548 remained pending at the close of the year. The total amount realised in courts other than Small Cause Courts was Rs. 1,68,71,131. Execution proceedings.

Debtors were imprisoned in 198 cases, moveable property was sold in 6,703 and immoveable in 49,745.

150. The number of miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature instituted rose from 51,432 in 1904 to 53,734; the number disposed of from 50,727 to 53,360, and the number pending from 11,531 to 12,514. Of the cases disposed of 22,836 were withdrawn, compromised or confessed; 13,269 were decided *ex-parte*; and 17,255 were contested. Of the total number of applications disposed of after contest 53 per cent. were granted. Of the pending cases 16 had been pending more than a year. The relative proportions of the above figures are normal. Miscellaneous cases.

The miscellaneous cases of a non-judicial nature instituted during the year were 14,781 in number. Of these, about two-thirds were applications for the deposit of rent. Disposals numbered 15,105, and the pending file fell to 2,498.

III.—Calcutta Small Cause Court.

151. The number of suits instituted and decided in the Presidency Court of Small Causes during 1905, and the number pending at its close, was 20,488, 21,272 and 2,505, respectively. Both institutions and disposals show a perceptible decrease on the previous year's figures, and the number of pending suits was less than in 1904 by 8 only. Number of suits.

The decrease in institutions was chiefly in suits of lower value, there being an increase in suits valued at over Rs. 500. There was a still further increase in the number of suits above Rs. 1,000 from 479 to 654.

The total value of the litigation in the Presidency Small Cause Court was Rs. 33,41,258 during the year, as against Rs. 31,18,743 in the preceding year.

The average duration of contested and uncontested cases in the year under review was 45·3 and 36·04 days, respectively, showing a fractional increase over the figures of 1904. The slight increase in the average duration of contested cases is explained as due to the increase in the proportion of cases of higher value.

Mode of disposal.

152. Of the 21,272 suits disposed of during the year 1,331 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution or were withdrawn with leave, 16,619 were decided without contest, 3,317 were decided after contest or upon reference to arbitration, and in five the plaint was either rejected or returned.

Of the 2,505 suits remaining under trial at the close of 1905 only 14 had been pending for more than three months.

Execution of decrees.

153. Of the 32,576 applications for the execution of decrees dealt with in the Presidency Small Cause Court, of which 684 were pending from the previous year, 31,773 were determined and 803 remained pending at the close of the year. Of the latter 277 were more than three months old. Of the applications disposed of 26,002 resulted in whole or partial satisfaction of the decrees granted, 3,850 were returned as wholly infructuous and 1,921 were transferred to other courts.

The total amount realised was Rs. 8,13,891, as compared with Rs. 8,12,656 in the previous year. In order to enforce the execution of decrees, imprisonment was resorted to in 80 cases and sale of moveables in 735. The number is greater in both the cases than in 1904.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Appeals under the Letters Patent.

154. Under section 15 of the Letters Patent there were 53 appeals filed during the year, and 55 were pending at its commencement. Of the total 85 were decided and 23 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of appeals disposed of was the same as that of 1904. Of the number undecided none was pending for more than a year. Sixty-six Third Appeals were filed during the year and 31 were pending at its commencement. Of these appeals 66 were decided and 31 remained pending at the close of the year.

II.—Appeals from the Subordinate Civil Courts.

Appeals to the High Court from Subordinate Courts.

155. The number of First and Second Appeals from the Decrees and Orders of the Provincial Courts as Courts of Original and Appellate Jurisdiction, respectively, which came before the High Court and were decided during the past year, is shown in the margin. The figures include appeals from the courts of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The institutions of First Appeals from Decrees and Orders, and of Second Appeals from Decrees, were, respectively, 66, 55, and 537 less than in 1904. Second Appeals from Orders were 80 more than in 1904.

	Pending at the end of 1904.	Preferred.	Decided.	Pending at the end of 1905.
First Appeals.				
From decrees ...	1,171	531	616	1,086
From orders ...	445	292	287	450
Second Appeals.				
From decrees ...	5,191	2,649	4,259	3,581
From orders ...	126	298	260	164
Total ...	6,933	3,770	5,422	5,281

Appeals decided.

156. The number of First Appeals from Decrees decided is fewer than that of 1904 by 16; while the disposals of First Appeals from Orders, and Second Appeals from Decrees and from Orders, exceed the disposals of 1904 by 44,296 and 10, respectively. The increase in the number of appeals decided is apparently due to the employment of an additional Judge continuously during 1905.

157. At the close of the year there were pending 1,536 First Appeals, of which 1,086 were from Decrees and 450 from Orders; and 3,745 Second Appeals, of which 3,581 were from Decrees. The total is less than the numbers pending at the close of 1904 and 1903 by 1,652 and 2,059, respectively. Appeals pending.

158. Of the 616 appeals from Original Decrees decided during the year 172 were uncontested, being dismissed on default, withdrawn or compromised. Of those decided after contest, 291 decrees of the Lower Courts were confirmed, 67 reversed, 43 varied, and 43 remanded. Results of Appeals.

Of the 4,259 appeals from Appellate Decrees 339 were uncontested, and 1,040 were dealt with under section 551 of the Civil Procedure Code. Two thousand eight hundred and eighty were heard and determined, with the result that 2,196 decrees of the Lower Courts were affirmed, 161 reversed, 67 varied, and 456 remanded.

Of the 547 appeals from Orders decided during the last year, 113 were uncontested, 97 were dealt with under section 551 of the Civil Procedure Code, and 337 were decided after trial. Of the last, 251 orders of the Lower Courts were affirmed, 41 reversed, 8 varied, and 37 remanded.

The following table shows the result of appeals decided by the High Court as affecting District Judges and Subordinate Judges:—

		Affirmed.		Modified or Reversed.	
		District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.
Appeals from	Original Decrees ...	113	178	27	83
	Appellate Decrees ...	1,019	1,177	86	142
Miscellaneous Appeals		115	136	28	21

159. At the opening of the year 6 appeals to the Privy Council were under preparation for despatch to England, and 30 were pending for orders. Seventy-six new appeals were filed during the year. Of the total for disposal 38 were struck off or compromised, 8 were despatched to England, and 66 appeals—1 of 1902, 12 of 1904, and 53 of 1905—were pending at the close of the year. Of the pending appeals 18 were under preparation for despatch to England at the close of the year. The results of 9 appeals to the Privy Council were received during the year. The decisions of the High Court were affirmed in 8 instances and reversed in 1. Appeals to the Privy Council.

Appellate Courts Subordinate to the High Court.

160. There were 11,130 appeals instituted in 1905; a decrease, as compared with the previous year, of 1,364. Appeals instituted.

Of the number instituted in 1905, 4,954 were in rent suits, 4,898 in title suits, and 1,278 in suits for money or moveables. The number shows a decrease in the two first-named classes, and a slight increase in the last-named.

The number of appeals valued at sums below Rs. 10 and between Rs. 10 and Rs. 50 was 1,236 and 3,407, respectively. The total value of the appeals instituted in the subordinate courts in 1905 was Rs. 23,22,131, being less than the total of 1904 by over one lakh.

The number of cases in which an appeal lay, decided by subordinate courts during the year, was 50,020; and the proportion of appeals instituted to appealable decisions, excluding appeals from decisions of Revenue Officers, was 21·1 per cent.

161. The number of appeals decided (12,822) was larger than in 1904 by 11. In the courts of District and Additional Judges disposals increased by 252, while in those of Subordinate Judges there was a decrease of 241, compared with the previous year. More attention was devoted to original suits by the Subordinate Judges. Appeals disposed of.

162. There were 4,976 appeals pending at the close of the year, the number being 1,183 less than at the end of 1904. Appeals pending.

The number of appeals pending for more than one year was materially reduced during the year, there being at its close 137, as compared with 541 in 1904. It has been found necessary to give temporary assistance to some of the districts.

Result of Appeals.

163. The result on the decisions of the lower courts of the appeals decided during the year was as follows:—in 6,855 cases, or 53·5 per cent. of the whole, the judgment of the lower court was affirmed; in 1,284 cases, or 10 per cent., it was modified; and in 1,998, or 15·8 per cent., it was reversed. One thousand and thirty-two appeals were remanded, and 1,653 were either not prosecuted or dismissed for default.

Miscellaneous Appeals.

164. There were 2,182 miscellaneous appeals instituted during the year, and 2,059 were disposed of; 520 remaining pending at the close of the year. The number pending is nearly 50 per cent. greater than that of the preceding year. This is far from satisfactory.

Administration of Civil Justice in the scheduled districts of Angul and the Sonthal Parganas.

165. The total number of suits instituted during the year in the Civil Courts in the scheduled districts of Angul (including Khondmals) and the Sonthal Parganas was 14,033. The number of money suits was 8,654, of rent suits 4,476, and of title and other suits 903. The total number of civil suits for disposal was 15,107. The number disposed of (including the number of suits transferred to Courts in other Provinces) was 13,495: of this number 3,467 suits were contested and 276 were disposed of by arbitration. The total number of appeals from decrees presented to the Civil Appellate Courts of the districts was 681 and the number disposed of was 613. Out of 129 Miscellaneous Civil Appeals 121 were disposed of, 12,265 applications for the execution of decrees were made and the number disposed of was 10,641.

Registration.

[Statistical Returns with a brief note of the Registration Department in Bengal, 1905; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section IX; Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Section XXIX, Joint-Stock Companies.]

Registration in the various Divisions.

166. In the year under review, the scheme of reorganisation of the Registration Department received the sanction of the Secretary of State for India. Under this scheme Special Sub-Registrars were graded on fixed salaries personal to them, and Rural Sub-Registrars, with the exception of a few who, being over the age of 45, were given the option of remaining under the old system of payment by commission, were also similarly graded on fixed salaries personal to them. The service of Rural Sub-Registrars has been made pensionable from the date of the introduction of the scheme. A grade of officers was framed for filling leave vacancies, and another grade of officers called "probationers" was constituted for filling up vacancies on account of casualties.

The total income of the Department remained almost stationary, having decreased from Rs. 10,13,013 in 1904 to Rs. 10,12,966 in 1905, *i.e.*, by only Rs. 47. The total expenditure also decreased slightly from Rs. 5,22,088 in 1904 to Rs. 5,21,355, *i.e.*, by only Rs. 733. It will thus appear that the number of registrations, receipts, and expenditure were nearly the same as in the preceding year.

Burdwan Division.

167. In all the districts of the Burdwan Division, except Birbhum, where there was a small increase of 3·2 per cent., there was a decrease in the total number of registrations in 1905 as compared with 1904, which is ascribed to good harvests.

Presidency Division.

168. Except in the 24-Parganas, where there was a small decrease of 2·6 per cent. due to good harvests, the total number of registrations increased in all the other districts of the Division in 1905 as compared with 1904. The increases in Khulna and Murshidabad, 7·4 per cent. and 6·1 per cent. respectively, are ascribed in the former district partly to the operation of Act VI of 1904 (an Act further to amend the Transfer of Property Act, 1882) and to new settlements, and in the latter district to bad harvests and a growing tendency on the part of the raiyats to treat their holdings as transferable, which the zamindars are said to be unable to check.

Patna Division.

169. There was an increase in the total number of registrations in all the districts of this Divison in 1905 as compared with 1904. In the three South Gangetic districts of Patna, Gaya and Shahabad, the increases were small, while in the North Gangetic districts of Champaran, Saran, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga, the increases were much larger, having been 12·4 per cent., 7 per cent., 12 per cent. and 6·6 per cent., respectively, higher than the figures for

1904. In Champaran the crop outturn was below expectation, and dearth and high prices of food-grains prevailed, while in Saran, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga, the *rabi* crop was damaged by hail and frost and *bhadoi* and *dhan* were damaged by floods.

Bhagalpur Division.

170. Registrations increased in 1905 as compared with 1904 in all the districts of this Division, except in Purnea and Darjeeling, in which the decreases (20 per cent. and 43·4 per cent., respectively) were heavy. In Purnea the bulk of the decrease occurred in compulsory leases for terms of years and is said to be due to the survey and settlement operations. In Darjeeling the decrease was due to the absence of the special causes of increase which prevailed in 1904, viz., the registration of leases by the tenants of Raja Tenduk's Estate which had been recently brought under settlement and of the Burdwan Raj Estate at Kurseong.

Orissa Division.

171. Except in Cuttack, where there was a small decrease of only 1 per cent., registrations increased in 1905 as compared with 1904 in the other districts of the Division. The largest percentage of increase was in Puri (10 per cent.) and was due to bad harvests and to the operation of Act VI of 1904, which made the registration of deeds of mortgage, value less than Rs. 100, compulsory.

Chota Nagpur Division.

172. There was an increase in registrations in 1905 as compared with 1904 in all the districts of this Division, except Singhbhum, in which there was a decrease of 14·3 per cent. on the figures for 1904, owing to the operation of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Amendment Act V of 1903, which came into force from November 1903. In the district of Hazaribagh there was a remarkable increase under "Instruments of mortgage" (83·1 per cent.), which was due to an increase in such deeds registered in the Sub-Registry office at Gola. It is reported that the people of that locality had in 1904 imagined that the Amended Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act forbade mortgages of *all* kinds, and that with the removal of this misunderstanding registrations of such deeds increased.

Working of the Indian Companies Act.

173. The number of Companies existing at the close of the year was 459 with a nominal capital of Rs. 23,96,81,609 and a paid-up capital of Rs. 17,30,96,647 (representing share-capital only), against 430 Companies with a nominal capital of Rs. 23,36,40,484 and a paid-up capital of Rs. 17,54,04,302 existing at the close of 1904-1905. There was thus an increase of 29 in the number of Companies and of Rs. 60,41,125 in the nominal capital; while in the paid-up capital there was a decrease of Rs. 23,07,655. Forty-five new Companies, with a total nominal capital of Rs. 2,01,08,500, were registered during the year, against 28 new Companies with a total nominal capital of Rs. 1,32,65,000 registered in the previous year. Of these, the largest number (23) are Trading Companies, and Mills and Presses come next, numbering nine. The total amount of fees paid for the registration of these Companies amounted to Rs. 2,165. One Company limited by guarantee (the Behar Planters' Association, Limited) was registered during the year. Seventy Companies increased their capital during the year. Of these 9 Companies increased their nominal capital only; 57 Companies increased the paid-up capital only, and 4 Companies increased both the nominal and paid-up capital. The paid-up capital of six Companies was reduced by Rs. 7,45,950. Three of these Companies also reduced their nominal capital by Rs. 7,58,375. Fifteen Companies having an agreegate nominal capital of Rs. 81,82,000 and a paid-up capital of Rs. 21,59,172 ceased to work during the year. Of these one was written off as defunct. One Native Provident Society went into liquidation, and one such new Society was registered during the year.

The following Societies were registered during the year under Act XXI of 1860:—

(1) Brahmo Samaj Committee. (2) People's Association, Bhatpara. (3) Sri Kanyakubja Mandal Sabha. (4) Sri Krishna Gowshala Sabha. (5) The Bengal Mills and Steamers Presbyterian Association.

The fees realized during the year amounted to Rs. 15,080-12, while the expenditure amounted to Rs. 931-1-6.

Working of Muhammadan Marriage Registration Act.

174. Act I (B.C.) of 1876 for the voluntary registration of Muhammadan marriages and divorces was in force in 18 districts. The number of offices at work at the close of the year was 121, against 122 of the year preceding. The office at Bahadurganj, in the district of Purnea, was abolished during the year under review, and its jurisdiction was amalgamated with that of

Kissenganj. The total number of ceremonies registered during the year under review was 3,695, against 3,345 in the previous year, showing an increase of 350, or 10·5 per cent., most of which occurred in the district of the 24-Parganas. Excluding 28 offices in which there was no work, registrations took place in 93 offices, and the average number of registrations in each office was 40 in 1905-1906, against 38 in the previous year.

Working of the Brahmo Marriage Act.

175. There were 32 marriages registered under the Act during the year under review, as against 36 in the previous year. Twenty-five marriages were registered in Calcutta, three in Howrah, one each in Bhagalpur, Cuttack, Midnapore and Patna. There were 16 Marriage Registrars under the Act, besides 22 *ex-officio* Marriage Registrars. Of these only 9 Marriage Registrars and one *ex-officio* Marriage Registrar registered marriages during the year. The ages of the bridegrooms ranged from 21 to 53 years and those of the brides from 15 to 28 years. Seven widows whose ages ranged from 19 to 28 years were re-married.

Municipal Department and Local Self-Government.

MUNICIPALITIES OUTSIDE CALCUTTA.

[The Report from the several Commissioners of Divisions on the working of Municipalities in Bengal (except Calcutta) during the year 1905-1906; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XVII.]

General.

176. One new Municipality was created during the year 1905-1906, viz., at Katihar, in the district of Purnea. The Sambalpur Municipality was transferred to Bengal from the Central Provinces, while 35 Municipalities were transferred to the jurisdiction of the new Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The present Resolution therefore deals with the statistics of 128 Municipalities, and compares them with the statistics of 126 Municipalities of the previous year.

Collections.

177. The high standard of collections of the previous year was maintained during the year under review. Although, owing to the steady reduction of realisable arrears, the percentage of total collections on current demand fell from 97·4 to 96·4, the percentage of current collections on current demand rose from 93·0 to 93·7, the lowest percentage, viz., 92·5, being attained in the Patna Division. The percentage of total remissions on current demand fell in the aggregate from 4·6 to 4·2, the higest figure being returned from the Bhagalpur Division, where it rose from 3·6 in 1904-1905 to 7·3. The increase in that Division is mainly due to the large remissions allowed at Monghyr and Bhagalpur, owing, it is said, to the prevalence of plague in those places. In the Burdwan Division the remissions fell from 8·5 per cent. to 5·7 per cent. With an increase of Rs. 1,17,840 in the current demand, and a falling off in the total remissions, the total outstanding balance at the close of the year for all the Municipalities was reduced from Rs. 1,98,929 in 1904-1905 to Rs. 1,78,944. Thirteen Municipalities collected cent. per cent. on the current demand or more, whilst in 19 there was either no outstanding balance or a balance of less than Rs. 10 only.

Number of ratepayers.

178. The total number of ratepayers was 407,961, and the percentage to population 17·3 against 17·2 in 1904-1905. As in the previous year, the percentage was highest at Katwa (30 8) and lowest (7·3) in the Municipality of Titagarh, where there is a large migratory population of mill-hands.

Results of Elections held during the year.

179. General elections were held during the year in 40 Municipalities. In one of the wards of the Sasaram Municipality, where the elections were contested, all the persons qualified to vote were present at the poll and recorded their votes. In the other contested elections the attendance of voters ranged between 83·7 per cent. in a ward of the Vishnupur Municipality and 1·2 in one of the wards of the Jagadispur Municipality. The elections failed in certain wards of four Municipalities only—Arrah, Hajipur, Cuttack and Hazaribagh.

Constitution of Committees and attendance at Meetings.

180. The total number of Commissioners was 1,745 against 1,718 in the previous year, the increase being due to the creation of the Katihar Municipality and to the transfer to Bengal of the Sambalpur Municipality. The number of meetings held was 2,138, of which 177 were adjourned, against 2,189 meetings held in 1904-1905, of which 153 were adjourned. The Cossipore-Chitpur and

Kalna Municipalities held the largest number of meetings (49). Thirteen Municipalities failed to hold one meeting a month, and at Jamalpur and Chaibassa only 7 meetings were held. The average attendance at meetings was practically the same as in the previous year, though the number of Municipalities in which it amounted to one-half rose from 89 to 93. The average attendance was highest in the new Municipality of Katihar (81·8), and exceeded three-fourths of the number of Commissioners at Asansol and Bihar. The lowest figure is returned from Giridih, where the average attendance was only 27·0 per cent.

Assessment and Taxation.

181. The rate on holdings was levied in the new Municipality of Katihar from the beginning of the current year. This method of taxation was substituted for the alternative tax on persons in the Municipalities of Purulia, Cuttack, Garulia, Bhatpara and Kotrung, and is now in force in 49 Municipalities and in certain wards of the Bhadreswar, South Dum-Dum, Deoghur, Bettiah and Darbhanga Municipalities, the tax on persons being levied elsewhere. There are now therefore only six Municipalities with a population exceeding 20,000, viz., Bankura, Berhampore, Bihar, Arrah, Sasaram and Balasore, in which the tax on persons continues to be levied. During the year an effort was made to introduce the rate on holdings in all the wards of the Darbhanga Municipality, but it is reported that the experimental valuation which was made showed that its general introduction would entail a loss of income. In 16 towns the rate on holdings was levied at less than the maximum, but the gradual rise in the average incidence of taxation per head of population was maintained during the year, the figures showing an increase of ten pies. The highest incidence of taxation (Rs. 8-5-10) was attained in the hill Municipality of Darjeeling. Among the Municipalities in the plains, Sambalpur returned the highest figure, viz., Rs. 3-12-7, and Ramjibanpur, in the district of Midnapore, the lowest, annas 4-3. In 20 other towns the incidence of taxation was less than eight annas per head.

Revision of Assessment.

182. General or partial revisions of assessments were made in several Municipalities during the year. The revision of assessments at Howrah resulted in a total increase of Rs. 20,171 in the demand for the house, lighting, latrine and water rates. The assessments were revised by paid assessors in several Municipalities, and the results were on the whole fairly satisfactory: but in Baduria the good result achieved by the assessor was, it is reported, rendered futile by the interference of the Appellate Committee, by whom the increase of 21·4 per cent. was reduced to 8·1 per cent.

Income and Expenditure.

183. The total income of the Municipalities, including the opening balance, was Rs. 57,25,680, or an increase of Rs. 1,95,236 over that of the previous year. The total expenditure was Rs. 47,83,368 against Rs. 47,78,202 in 1904-1905.

Closing balance of Municipalities.

184. The aggregate closing balances rose from Rs. 7,52,242 in the preceding year to Rs. 9,42,312. The inclusion of unspent loans or grants from Government accounts for the comparatively large balances shown in some towns, as in Maniktala (Rs. 1,23,615), Bhagalpur (Rs. 68,749) and Titagarh (Rs. 35,263). Most municipalities maintained a sufficient closing balance; but at Meherpur the closing balance is shown as only Rs. 196. At Debhatta only Rs. 33 were reserved to form the balance and at Buxar only Rs. 19.

INCOME.

Income.

185. The steady growth of Municipal income referred to in the last Report continued during the year. Excluding the income of the newly added Municipality of Sambalpur (Rs. 60,702), there was an improvement of Rs. 1,31,153, accompanied by a large decrease of Rs. 1,61,965 under "Extraordinary and Debt." The net increase was thus Rs. 2,93,118, or 6 per cent., of which about a lakh accrued under Municipal rates and taxes. The general increase was shared by all the Divisions, but as might be expected it was largest in the Presidency Division, where it amounted to Rs. 1,64,332.

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186. This tax is levied only in the Sambalpur Municipality, which has been recently transferred to this Province. The gross income from this source shows an increase of Rs. 5,805, whilst the net income after the payment of refunds amounted to Rs. 27,901 against Rs. 25,659 in 1904-1905.

Tax on Houses and Lands.

187. The revenue from this source increased by Rs. 63,768. The tax is not levied in Sambalpur, nor was it levied during the year at Katihar. The Municipalities in which the increase under this head was most marked as compared with the previous year were Cossipore-Chitpur (Rs. 3,446) and Maniktala (Rs. 4,787), these results being due to revision of assessment. On the other hand there was a falling off at Monghyr (Rs. 3,467) and Bhagalpur (Rs. 2,917), ascribed to the prevalence of plague. The increase at Sahebganj (Rs. 4,207) was due to the payment of arrears by the East Indian Railway Company, and similarly the apparent decline of Rs. 10,667 at Bally was due to the fact that in the previous year large arrears had been collected from the Company.

Tax on Animals and Vehicles.

188. The receipts under this head rose by Rs. 2,475, the largest increase occurring in the Municipality of Kishanganj, where it rose from Rs. 611 in 1904-1905 to Rs. 3,144. No explanation has been given of this remarkable increase, but it is probably due to the appointment of a special staff for the realization of fees from outside carts and ponies habitually plying within Municipal limits. There were also marked increases in the Municipalities of Cuttack (Rs. 1,480) and Barasat (Rs. 1,132), whilst there was a falling off (Rs. 1,107) at Darbhanga.

Tax on Professions and Trades.

189. The income from this minor item of Municipal revenue declined by Rs. 1,020 as compared with the previous year. The tax was levied in all the Municipalities, except four, Debhatta, Kurseong, Jhalda and Raghunathpur.

Water-rate.

190. The total revenue shows an increase of Rs. 31,868. There were marked increases at Howrah (Rs. 2,576), Maniktala (Rs. 2,140) and Arrah (Rs. 4,011). Better collections at Howrah and a revision of assessment at Maniktala account for the improvements in those places. The increase at Arrah is not accounted for. A decrease of Rs. 1,756 at Bhagalpur was due to the prevalence of plague in that town.

Lighting-rate.

191. This rate was levied only in two towns, viz., Howrah and Darjeeling, as in the previous year, and yielded an increase of Rs. 6,936, of which Rs. 6,084 occurred in Darjeeling. This was due to the extension of electric connections with private buildings.

Conservancy, including Scavenging and Latrine-rate.

192. There was an improvement of revenue of Rs. 43,840, which was shared more or less by all the Divisions except Bhagalpur, the largest increase occurring in the Municipalities of Howrah (Rs. 12,268) and Cossipore-Chitpur (Rs. 7,453). The general increase is ascribed to the enforcement of the tax in new areas and on new and improved holdings, and also to better collections.

Tax on Persons according to their circumstances and property.

193. There was a decrease in the revenue of Rs. 43,137, due to the substitution in five Municipalities of the tax on holdings for this form of taxation. The total revenue under these two heads shows an improvement of Rs. 20,631 as compared with the previous year.

Grants from Provincial and Local Funds.

194. The increase of Rs. 29,600 is accounted for by larger grants from Government for general purposes, and from local funds for medical purposes. The total contributions for general purposes amounted to Rs. 1,51,906, for education to Rs. 9,562, and for medical to Rs. 2,59,622.

Liberality on the part of Private Individuals.

195. Many instances of private liberality are brought to notice in the reports of the Commissioners. The most prominent of the public benefactors during the year were Rai Sitab Chand Nahar Bahadur, who contributed Rs. 7,000 towards the cost of works for the protection of the town of Azimganj from the Bhagirathi river; Babu Lal Dhari Singh and his brother, zamindars of Dinapore, who contributed Rs. 5,000 for the construction of a building for the Dinapore Charitable Dispensary; and Mr. Solano of Arwal, who contributed Rs. 4,500 for the construction of an infectious diseases ward in the Gaya Cholera Hospital.

EXPENDITURE.

Expenditure.

196. The aggregate expenditure of the Municipalities in Bengal amounted to Rs. 47,83,368, against Rs. 47,78,202 in 1904-1905. The ordinary expenditure (*i.e.*, excluding repayment of loans, advances, deposits, etc.), which amounted to Rs. 39,48,665, shows a slight falling off.

Office and Collection Establishment.

197. Excluding the Sambalpur Municipality, the aggregate expenditure on this account shows a small increase of Rs. 3,817, and as in the previous year represented about one-tenth of the total ordinary expenditure. The

expenditure rose in the Orissa Division from 9·9 per cent. of the total expenditure to 11·2 per cent., and in the other Divisions the percentage was practically stationary. The highest percentage (24·9) was incurred in the small Municipality of Debhatta in the 24-Parganas, and the lowest 4·3 in the Sitamarhi Municipality.

Prevention of Fire.

198. Of the total expenditure under this head, Rs. 24,500 is contributed by the four Municipalities of Howrah, Cossipore-Chitpur, Maniktala and Garden Reach, this sum representing their contribution to the upkeep of the Metropolitan Fire-Brigade. The charges in the rest of the Province were trifling. Towards the close of the year, the Commissioners of the Darjeeling Municipality organized a fire-brigade at a cost of Rs. 21,444, one-half of which was paid by Government.

Lighting.

199. The total expenditure shows a decrease of Rs. 41,836, which is accounted for by a reduction of Rs. 49,510 in the capital expenditure on the electric installation at Darjeeling. In the Howrah Municipality the expenditure rose by Rs. 5,702, owing to the payment of arrears due to the Gas Company. In the rest of the Province the charge was almost stationary.

Water-supply.

200. The Sanitary Board have reported generally that the management of the Water-works in those Municipalities which maintain complete installations has been satisfactory. In Howrah, the high level of efficiency which has always been noticeable was maintained, the daily average quantity of filtered water delivered from the water-works having increased from 1,724,000 gallons to 1,923,000 gallons. The number of house connections is now 3,796, and the total length of the distribution pipes has been increased by 2,459 feet. The management of the Burdwan Water-works was also efficient, and the Commissioner reports that the members of the Water-works Sub-Committee take great interest in the works. Out of a population of 38,000, only 18,000 are at present supplied with pipe-water, the daily consumption being 10·52 gallons per head. At Arrah, in spite of the difficulties arising from the recession of the river from the intake, a constant supply of water was maintained throughout the year. The management of the water-works at Berhampore shows some improvement. The supply of water was well maintained, the average daily supply per head being a little under 8 gallons. The expenditure on account of maintenance and capital charges exceeded by Rs. 4,804 the revenue derived from the water-rate, although this is levied at the maximum rate, and the total deficit up to date is about Rs. 15,000. The difficulties attending the management of the Bhagalpur Water-works still exist. It has now been decided, after exhaustive enquiries by the Engineering and Sanitary advisers of Government, to replace the existing pumping plant by Diesel oil engines, and to carry out other improvements which will, it is hoped, secure a constant and adequate supply of filtered water at all times of the year. Government has made a large grant towards the cost of these improvements. The hill towns of Darjeeling and Kurseong are fortunate in being able to secure supplies of comparatively pure water from springs in the locality. As, however, it is impossible efficiently to guard the catchment area from all chances of pollution, it is essential that the supply should be filtered, and it has now been decided that the existing settling tanks at Darjeeling should be converted into filters and that arrangements are to be made for the filtration of the water-supply at Kurseong. A small installation after the Faridpur pattern for the improvement of the water-supply has been completed at Khulna, and at Jessore and Gaya more ambitious projects are at present under consideration.

Drainage.

201. There was a decrease of Rs. 10,851 in the expenditure, which is accounted for by a fall of Rs. 14,917 under capital expenditure. At Howrah, the execution of Block II of the Sibpur Drainage scheme was completed during the year, and the construction of drains for the Southern Foreshore area was commenced. A scheme for the surface drainage of the Northern Foreshore section, at an estimated cost of about 1¼ lakhs, is also under the consideration of the Commissioners. Towards the close of the year a scheme for the drainage of the Titagarh Municipality, at an estimated cost of Rs. 89,411, was sanctioned by Government. To meet the cost of this project, the Commissioners have taken a loan of Rs. 55,000, which will be supplemented by a contribution of Rs. 15,000 from the local mills,

the balance of Rs. 10,000 being met by a grant from Government. A comprehensive scheme for the drainage of the Cossipore-Chitpur Municipality was submitted during the year, and is now being revised under the instructions of Government. The question of the drainage of Puri has long been under the consideration of Government, and during the year a Committee was appointed, with the Commissioner of the Orissa Division as President, to consider the scheme prepared by the Sanitary Board for the improvement of the drainage of that town. The Committee submitted its report, in which the probable cost of the works to be taken up at once was estimated at Rs. 1,70,000. The scheme as modified by the Committee has received administrative approval, and Government has undertaken to assist the Municipality in carrying it out. The detailed plans and estimates are now under preparation.

Conservancy, including Road-cleaning and Road-watering and Latrines.

202. The expenditure on this important municipal service rose in all the Divisions. The increase was marked in the Burdwan, Presidency and Patna Divisions, where it amounted to Rs. 36,502, Rs. 14,797 and Rs. 11,921, respectively. The Municipality of Howrah spent Rs. 35,170 on the strengthening of the conservancy establishment and the purchase of carts and wheel-barrows. There has been no extension of the bacteriological method of night-soil disposal, and the only Municipalities in which septic tanks maintained by the Commissioners are at present in use are Howrah and Muzaffarpur. It is reported that the four biological filters established in the former Municipality for the disposal of liquid sewage continued to work satisfactorily. At Howrah, the work of opening out insanitary *bustees* was pushed on vigorously, and additional surveyors were employed to prepare the necessary plans. In his report for 1905, the Sanitary Commissioner writes that the conservancy arrangements in Municipalities are also gradually improving. Old insanitary latrines are being replaced by new ones of better type, in many places glazed stoneware latrine seats are being brought into use, and almost all the Municipalities now use proper trenching grounds.

Hospitals and Dispensaries.

203. The expenditure shows an increase of Rs. 70,081. Deducting the contributions from Government and other sources, and the interest on investments for Medical purposes, as also the income from "Fees and revenue from Medical institutions," the total net expenditure on hospitals and dispensaries and plague charges amounted to Rs. 2,21,650, or about 4·2 per cent. of the total Municipal revenue of the year. According to the annual Dispensary Report for the calendar year 1905, the net grant from Municipal funds was Rs. 1,89,696. This amount evidently excludes the charges on account of plague incurred by the Municipalities.

Vaccination.

204. The expenditure shows a slight increase. Deducting from the total number of births registered the number of children under one year who died during the year, the total number of children under one year available for vaccination was 46,094, of whom 43,292 or about 94 per cent. were successfuly vaccinated.

Markets and Slaughter-houses.

205. The expenditure rose by Rs. 20,428 as compared with the previous year. The increase occurred in the Patna (Rs. 14,821) and Orissa (Rs. 13,134) Divisions. The construction of new markets at Chapra and Sitamarhi accounts for the increase in the former Division; and in the latter the Puri Municipality acquired lands for a Municipal market and put up some *kutcha* shops. The plan for a new market in the Patna Municipality has been approved, and the work will be taken in hand during the current year. The necessity for preventing the spread of disease through the public food-supply received continued attention during the year.

Public Works.

206. The expenditure on public works shows a decrease of Rs. 2,09,185, which is more than accounted for by the contribution of 2¼ lakhs of rupees made by the Howrah Municipality in 1904-1905 to the East Indian Railway Company for strengthening a bridge.

Public Instruction.

207. The expenditure on education increased by Rs. 12,321. The total expenditure on primary education rose from Rs. 65,987 to Rs. 73,929, which represents 3·0 per cent. of the ordinary income of the Municipalities against 2·8 in the previous year. The percentage was highest in the Orissa Division (3·68) and lowest in the Burdwan Division (2·3) as in the previous year. The prescribed standard of 3·2 per cent. is fairly approximated in the aggregate,

but it was largely exceeded in many of the small towns, rising as high as 48·7 per cent. in Khulna, where large expenditure was incurred on primary school buildings. At Ramjibanpur, in the Midnapore district, the percentage stood at 10·4.

Loans.

208. Thirty-one Municipalities were in debt at the close of the year; and if the sum of Rs. 1,57,093 on account of the accumulated balances of the sinking funds of the Burdwan, Howrah and Bhagalpur Municipalities for the repayment of their debenture loans is excluded, the total net indebtedness amounted to Rs. 34,60,414. Of this sum, the loan liabilities of the Howrah Municipaltiy alone account for Rs. 18,94,790. Nine new loans were granted during the year, aggregating Rs. 3,81,000, of which Howrah drew Rs. 1,00,000 for drainage purposes, and Rs. 60,000 and Rs. 50,000 for an additional filtered water reservoir and for the extension of the water works in that town. For the extension or improvement of water-supply, Maniktala received Rs. 1,00,000, South Barrackpore Rs. 4,000, Khulna Rs. 8,000, Berhampore Rs. 6,000 and Darjeeling Rs. 33,000. Titagarh received Rs. 20,000, being the first instalment of a loan of Rs. 55,000 for drainage works.

On the 31st March 1906, the total outstanding liabilities of all the Municipalities on account of unpaid bills and unfinished works stood at Rs. 1,51,101, which is more than 16 per cent. of the closing balances and 5 per cent. of the current demand. In four Municipalities the liabilities exceeded the closing balances, and in six they exceeded 15 per cent. of the current demand.

Audit of Accounts and Embezzlements

209. Only three cases of embezzlement were reported during the year. They do not call for special notice.

Working of the Porters' and Dandiwallas' Act.

210. This Act was in force in the Municipalities of Darjeeling and Kurseong. There was a large increase in the number of porters and *dandiwallas* registered in Darjeeling. There was, however, only one prosecution against 40 in the previous year. At Kurseong there were 4 prosecutions. No licenses were cancelled during the year in either town.

The Howrah Municipality.

211. The high standard of efficiency recorded in the Howrah Municipality in past years has been satisfactorily maintained, the Collection Department in particular having continued to work well. The percentage of the total collections to the current demand is practically the same as that of the previous year, the slight drop from 97·8 to 97·5 being due to a decrease in the arrear collections. The outstanding balance has been reduced from Rs. 24,539 in 1904-1905 to Rs. 9,090, nearly half of which consists of arrears for 1905-1906. Out of a total demand of Rs. 5,89,000, Rs. 5,51,000 was collected, the percentage being 93·5 as compared with 87·6 in the previous year. It is especially satisfactory to observe that the income from fines fell from Rs. 16,300 to Rs. 8,800. Of all the branches of the administration perhaps the most noticeable for its efficiency is the water-works. The Sanitary Board have expressed their appreciation of the careful manner in which these have been looked after and their high state of efficiency. During the year the construction works of Block II of the Sibpur Drainage scheme were entirely completed. The Sanitary Engineer frequently inspected the work, and has stated in his final report that the work appears to have been exceedingly well and carefully carried out. Detailed plans and estimates for the construction of *pucca* drains in Block IV of the South Foreshore scheme were prepared during the year, and received the sanction of Government after its close. Schemes for the drainage of the Northern Foreshore section of the town and for the Central section are at present under the consideration of the Commissioners, and when these portions are ready the whole project will be complete. With the completion of the drainage system and the ultimate connecting up of all the houses of the town with the *pucca* drains, a steady improvement in the sanitary condition of the town can confidently be expected.

THE CALCUTTA MUNICIPALITY.

[The Administration Report of the Calcutta Municipality for the year 1905-1906 Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XVII.]

General.

212. The year 1905-1906 marks the close of the second period of three years during which the administration has been carried on under the provisions of the Calcutta Municipal Act of 1899, and it is of special interest

therefore to take stock briefly of the progress made during that interval. Not that the term is a long one in the life of the Corporation, or that finality is ever likely to be arrived at in municipal administration. Moreover, the action of the Corporation has been affected by the prospect of the initiation of the city improvement scheme regarding which a final decision has not yet been arrived at. Pending its introduction the necessity of caution in incurring fresh expenditure has been already enjoined; and certain projects from which a remedy for the evils of overcrowding might be hoped for have been suspended.

General and Special Committees.

213. Regarding the working of the municipal machinery as a whole, the experience of the recent triennium has been noticeably valuable in tending to the elucidation of the respective functions of the Corporation, the General Committee and the Chairman; and with a clearer knowledge of the powers of each, the respective limits of control have been better observed and friction has been avoided. The Corporation has also done wisely in availing itself of the assistance of Standing Special Committees in place of the earlier Committees specially appointed for the consideration of particular subjects. Time has thereby been saved, the convenience of members has been consulted, and projects have been more fully and adequately examined. The object in view, as noticed by the Chairman, should be the effective disposal of all details by Committees before which alone they can be satisfactorily threshed out, leaving to the Corporation the determination of general principles only. The more permanent constitution of these Committees, by making more readily accessible their accumulated experience of the particular subjects delegated to their supervision, should add to the authority attaching to their recommendations. The scheme of administrative devolution by the formation of four districts equipped with separate staffs of their own has also proved of great assistance to the central body.

Administrative Changes.

214. During the first three years of its revised constitution the attention of the Corporation was largely devoted to the task of general departmental reorganisation, and there were under review various important reforms comprising the amalgamation of the Engineering and Conservancy Departments; the formation of a separate Building Department; the revision of the Accounts Department; the remodelling of the Collection Department, and of minor measures calculated to render more efficient the working of the License, Hackney Carriage, Secretary's and Assessor's offices. The history of the administration during the succeeding triennium has been generally one of progress. It was found necessary to reorganise the Building Department during the past year, ward overseers taking the place of the sarkars previously entertained, and the district building surveyors being given larger powers of sanction in order that the disposal of work might be exedpited. The reorganisation of the Accounts Department has continued to occupy the attention of the Corporation during recent years, and the Chairman now reports that it is complete, and that all sections are so far working smoothly and satisfactorily. The reforms effected in the Collection Department had already yielded excellent results prior to the recent triennium, and these have continued since, although the percentage of realisations during 1905-1906, *i.e.*, 99·11, is slightly below that of the preceding two years. A further reorganisation of the License Department was completed during 1903-1904, and its beneficial results are shown by the fact that the collection during 1905-1906 was in excess by Rs. 1,43,518 of that of the year preceding the reform, while recourse was had sparingly to coercive measures. The working of the Assessment Department has been uniformly commended during the last three years, and the gross assessed valuation of the town, which amounted to Rs. 2,40,40,704 in 1902-1903, has risen to Rs. 2,83,12,920 on the 31st March 1906; but the latter figure, unlike the former, includes the valuation (Rs. 5,72,765) upon the lands and buildings belonging to the Corporation. An entirely new departure effected during 1905-1906 was the creation of a special Law Department. The legal work of the Corporation was previously entrusted to a firm of solicitors, but the new system promises economy and permits more easily of legal advice being available.

Finance.

215. During the three years ending with that under review a total sum of ninety lakhs of rupees has been raised in loans in comparison with

38¼ lakhs during the preceding triennium; and the loan liability which amounted to Rs. 3,26,92,090 on the 1st April 1903 stood at Rs. 3,86,47,890 at the close of 1905-1906. Of this aggregate Rs. 12,95,390 represents the balance of the Government consolidated loan. The net indebtedness of the Corporation, viz., the amount owed less the sums to credit in sinking funds and reserve, has increased by about 60 lakhs during the recent triennium, as against a similar addition of some 15 lakhs during the preceding three years; and it is evident therefore that the period 1903-1904—1905-1906 has been one of heavy borrowing, mainly on account of the expenditure involved in the water-supply and the suburban drainage schemes. To these projects the Corporation is already committed, and the decision to make provision under these heads before all other needs, and to curtail as far as possible expenditure from loan funds generally, unless upon reproductive works, is of commendable prudence. At the same time the general financial position of the town need give no cause for apprehension. The legal limit up to which the Corporation can still borrow, calculated under section 131 of the Act and with the usual assumptions as to the interest at which a debenture loan can be floated at par, has increased during the last three years by over 23 lakhs in comparison with an addition of about 21 lakhs in the earlier triennium, and it now stands at Rs. 1,52,63,800. The actual present borrowing power, as limited by the surplus available after deducting the estimated expenditure from the estimated receipts *plus* the opening balance, is no doubt considerably less, and is stated by the Chairman to amount to rather over 34 lakhs only, but the calculation takes no account of the possibility of an enhancement of the general rate which is still feasible.

Revenue.

216. Under the revenue head it is noticeable that the triennium, which opened with a credit balance of Rs. 9,09,578, closed with a balance of Rs. 8,58,456. The recurring expenditure of the Corporation, since the year 1900-1901, has increased by 18 per cent. against a similar increase upon the receipt side of 17 per cent.

Suburban Drainage.

217. The most important projects with the execution of which the Corporation was concerned during the triennium continued to be the suburban drainage scheme and the improvement of the water-supply. At the commencement of the year 1903-1904 the sewerage west of Tolly's Nala had been completed, and as regards that to the east 14,222 feet of main sewers out of 39,136 feet, and 32,048 feet of branch sewers out of 129,683 feet sanctioned, had been laid. The progress of the intervening three years covers the installation of new engines at Palmer's Bridge; the erection of machinery at the Budge-Budge pumping station; the construction of the pumping station at Balliganj; the completion of the suburban outfall works and the practical completion of those for the town; the laying of the remainder of the main sewers with the exception of some 1,100 feet; the reconstruction, still in hand, of mains which had collapsed; and good progress with the branch sewers, of which some 29,040 feet only are still remaining to be put down. As regards other schemes of drainage, that for Baliaghata was started during 1904-1905, and its completion is anticipated during the current year; but the important projects dealing with the fringe area, at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 29½ lakhs, and the suburban surface drainage, estimated to cost nearly Rs. 9 lakhs, still hang fire. The latter has recently received the sanction of Government; the former was delayed pending a decision as to the discharge of storm water into the Circular Canal, a course which has recently been ruled to be inadmissible. The fact that suburban Calcutta returns a mortality of 47·7 per mille and the fringe area a rate of 40·1 per mille, in comparison with that of 36·1 in urban Calcutta proper, argues the urgent need of both schemes.

Water-supply.

218. The delay in carrying out improvements in the filtered water-supply of the city has been due to the abandonment of the scheme in hand at the close of the year 1902-1903, which contemplated the retention and improvement of the existing underground reservoirs and pumping stations, although little actual work had been done in connection with it. The year 1904 saw a fresh project, for the substitution of a central elevated reservoir from which the water would be distributed by a system of gravitation, and pending the receipt of expert opinion from England upon its merits work was suspended except

in so far as it was common to both plans. The opinion taken having proved favourable, and the report having been adopted by the Corporation during 1905, an advance might have been anticipated, but a suggestion to discard the dual supply of filtered and unfiltered water led to further discussion and delay. The merits of the substitution of a single filtered supply can scarcely be disputed. The question was purely whether within a reasonable cost it was practicable to effect the improvement, and this had eventually to be decided in the negative. Allowing for a provision for the next 25 years, it was finally estimated that for non-domestic purposes only an addition of 25 millions filtered gallons would be required, at a cost of about Rs. 40 lakhs, if the use of unfiltered water was to cease. Such an expenditure was deemed prohibitive, and, assuming the continuance of the unfiltered supply, the scheme narrowed itself once more to the provision of a further 20-million gallons of filtered water which, added to the same quantity which is at present available, was estimated to meet the requirements of the city and suburbs for domestic use during the next quarter of a century. The method of the introduction of this supply next claimed attention, and the proposed construction of a masonry aqueduct from Pulta to Tallah was vetoed upon sanitary grounds. The substitution of an iron main being held to be unduly expensive, an alternative scheme providing a daily supply of 32 million gallons by increased pressure upon the mains is now under consideration, an elevated reservoir taking the place of the present pumping arrangements. The outlines of the project are still to be elaborated, but in the meantime they have received the general approval of Government.

Pending the decision thus arrived at, much has been done towards improving the filtered water-supply during recent years. The work which would be required in any event, whether distribution was to be by gravity or by pumping, was estimated to cost Rs. 14,56,000, including a new reservoir at Tallah, together with the larger mains, and the meters, sluices, etc., requisite for a continuous supply, and the greater part of this expenditure has been incurred. An outlay of Rs. 1,27,000 for the construction of two new filter beds at Pulta has only recently been approved. Meanwhile the erection during 1904-1905 of new machinery putting pressure on the mains at Pulta has proved thoroughly successful, and the increased daily supply so secured is over 6 million gallons. Taking the triennium as a whole, the population to which the continuous supply, so called, is available has increased from 107,793 during 1902-1903 to 459,000 in 1905-1906; but the ideal of a continuous supply at a pressure of 40 feet throughout the 24 hours has not yet been arrived at, and until this has been achieved the full benefits of the continuous supply in enforcing economy in the use of water are lost.

Public health.

219. The birth and death-rates in the whole town during the three years ending with 1905 were as follows:—

	* Births per mille.	* Deaths per mille.
1903	15·5	35·1
1904	17·9	32·2
1905	18·4	37·9

* Calculated on census population, 1901.

The statistics of births have long been recognised to be defective, and although there would seem some indication of improvement, there is no doubt that accuracy has not yet been arrived at. Plague, which showed a recrudescence in 1903, was less prevalent in the succeeding year, but was again severe during 1905. Fortunately it again waned during 1906. Cholera prevailed extensively during the triennium, and was especially severe in 1905. The future prevention of this scourge is bound up with the extension of the filtered water-supply. Small-pox after occasioning little mortality during 1903 and 1904, and during the greater part of 1905, assumed an epidemic form in December of that year, which during the first quarter of 1906 developed into an outbreak of greater severity than had been known for 20 years. Admirable work was done by the Vaccination Department. A serious feature in the returns of the last three years is the increase in the number of deaths recorded from tubercle and respiratory diseases (other than tubercle of the lung). The growing registered mortality under the former head is possibly

due to more accurate diagnosis, and special remedial measures are advocated by the Health Officer. The question of improving the milk supply has been taken in hand by the Corporation. A scheme of sanitary municipal cowsheds to be rented to *gowalas* would offer a possible solution of the existing difficulties, but the financial aspects of such a proposal deserve careful consideration.

Puri Lodging-house Act.

[The Reports from the Commissioners of Divisions on the working of the Puri Lodging-house Act during the year 1905-1906 in the various places to which it has been extended.]

220. The Act was not extended to any new area during the year, and no amendment or alteration was made in the rules. The Chittagong Division having been transferred to the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, the figures for Sitakund have been excluded from the returns. Proposals for the amendment of the Act have lately been submitted by the Commissioner of Orissa and are at present under the consideration of Government. Working of the Act.

221. There was a further decrease in the number of licensed lodging-houses, which has fallen from 3,013 in 1902-1903 to 1,743 in 1905-1906, although the number of persons for whom accommodation was provided has not decreased in proportion. In Puri town, there was an increase of 20 in the number of houses licensed, but as greater strictness was observed in granting licenses, as many as 112 were suspended during the year, the licensees being either reluctant to carry out the improvements suggested or taking an unreasonably long time in doing so. The attendance during the *Rath Jatra* and *Dol Jatra* festivals was smaller than in the previous year, only 60,000 pilgrims visiting the town, as compared with 80,000 in 1904-1905. The decrease is ascribed to the fact that the year was an inauspicious one for pilgrimage. Licensed lodging-houses.

222. The income of the funds during the year, excluding the opening balance, was Rs. 80,740 as against Rs. 77,644 of the preceding year; the expenditure was Rs. 82,456 as compared with Rs. 99,541 in 1904-1905, the closing balance being reduced from Rs. 30,957 to Rs. 29,227. The decrease in expenditure is most noticeable in the Orissa Division, being only Rs. 43,572 as against Rs. 62,154 in 1904-1905. This is mainly due to the fact that the greater part of the work on the Bogla rest-house at Puri was done during 1904-1905, and the expenditure in that year was consequently greater than usual. There was also a large decrease in expenditure in the Bhagalpur Division, where there was a fall of Rs. 8,913 under the head "Miscellaneous." The expenditure during the preceding year was of a special nature on account of the cost of acquiring camping grounds. Income and expenditure.

223. On the whole the health of the pilgrims was good throughout the year. There were, however, serious outbreaks of cholera in Gaya during September and October 1905, while in Puri the total number of deaths rose from 143 to 443 in the year under report, the principal causes being cholera, fever, diarrhœa and dysentery. During the festivals of the *Rath Jatra* and the *Dol Jatra* only 17 cases of cholera occurred amongst the pilgrims. In Puri the attention of the Health Officer was specially directed to the improvement of the wells which form the principal source of water-supply for the pilgrims, and most of the wells were painted inside with cement to prevent percolation. The question of the improvement of the sanitation of Puri is still under the consideration of Government. A drainage scheme has been drawn up and approved at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,70,000, and the detailed plans and estimates are now under preparation. A definite scheme for the improvement of the water-supply of the town is also being prepared and will shortly be submitted for the approval of Government. Public health and water-supply.

District Boards.

[The Reports from the Commissioners of Divisions on the working of District Boards in Bengal during the year 1905-1906; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XVIII.]

224. During the year, 14 districts were transferred from Bengal to the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, and the district of Sambalpur was Number of District Boards.

transferred to Bengal from the Central Provinces; the number of District Boards in Bengal was therefore reduced from 42 to 29, of Local Boards from 104 to 77, and of Union Committees from 58 to 49. One Local Board was established in the reconstituted Barrackpore subdivision.

Constitution of District Boards.

225. The constitution of the District Boards was practically the same as in the previous year. The total number of members was 581, including the 20 members of the Sambalpur District Council, and the number of meetings held was 414 against 411 held in the previous year. The number of meetings which were adjourned or which proved abortive for want of a quorum rose from 23 to 27, but there was a slight improvement in the average attendance at meetings which rose from 10·9 to 11·6. The District Board of Shahabad held the largest number of meetings (22); and most District Boards met at least once a month, the exceptions being Murshidabad (11), Manbhum (11), Palamau (10), Hazaribagh (8) and Sambalpur (5). There was a slight improvement both in the number of meetings held and in the attendance at them in the Chota Nagpur Division.

Constitution of Local Boards.

226. The total number of members of Local Boards increased from 884 to 942, the fluctuation being chiefly due to the establishment of a new Local Board at Barrackpore, to the reduction in the number of members of the Barasat Local Board, and to the inclusion in the list of four Local Boards in the district of Sambalpur. The Local Boards convened 872 meetings, or 52 more than in 1904-1905, the greatest number (19) being held by the Jessore and Kendrapara Local Boards. Thirty-four Local Boards held less than 12 meetings during the year, and 114 meetings were adjourned or proved abortive for want of a quorum. The Local Board of Gobindpur held no meeting during the year. There was a slight improvement in the attendance of officials, but the attendance of non-officials was worse, the total average attendances being 4·9 against 5·5.

Union Committees.

227. As in the previous year, Union Committees were in existence only in the Burdwan, Presidency and Orissa Divisions. The aggregate income of the 49 Unions fell from Rs. 16,754 to Rs. 15,263, and the total expenditure from Rs. 15,288 to Rs. 14,608. Twenty Unions expended the whole or nearly the whole of the allotment placed at their disposal, while nine Committees (Memari, Srikhand, Sribati and Kotalpur, and all the five Unions of the Orissa Division) incurred no expenditure and did practically nothing during the year.

Financial Results.

228. The year opened with a gross credit balance of Rs. 15,61,000, and the total receipts of the 29 District Boards from all sources amounted to Rs. 68,93,000. The total amount available for expenditure was therefore Rs. 84,54,000, of which Rs. 59,08,000 were spent. The year closed with a credit balance of Rs. 25,47,000.

229. The table below compares the income and expenditure under the main heads of account for 1904-1905 and 1905-1906:—

Income.

	1904-1905.	1905-1906.
	Rs.	Rs.
Provincial Rates	32,36,780	32,54,963
Interest	39,760	36,062
Police (pounds)	2,96,151	3,15,522
Education	40,130	46,470
Medical	35,283	49,179
Scientific and other Minor Departments	12,526	17,292
Stationery and Printing	1,397	893
Miscellaneous	1,72,859	1,82,737
Irrigation, Minor Works and Navigation	3,316	6,271
Civil Works (including ferries) ...	5,54,245	18,26,565
Contribution	6,98,983	8,01,983
Deposits and Advances	3,26,559	3,55,405
Total ...	54,17,989	68,93,342

Expenditure.

	1904-1905.	1905-1906.
	Rs.	Rs.
Administration	2,07,009	2,12,717
Police (pounds)	16,923	24,378
Education	11,81,520	12,08,900
Medical	2,61,719	3,18,029
Scientific and other Minor Departments	34,391	44,624
Superannuation Allowance and Pension	25,568	30,569
Stationery and Printing ...	28,736	34,338
Miscellaneous	54,693	30,083
Famine Relief	3,007	.....
Minor Works and Navigation ...	989	2,545
Civil Works	32,17,981	36,10,384
Contributions	42,741	42,443
Debt	3,89,214	3,43,052
Interest on Debt	3,977	5,682
Total ...	54,68,468	59,07,744

INCOME.

Provincial Rates.

230. Excluding Rs. 11,101, which represents the income derived from this source by the Sambalpur District Council, the receipts under this head show an increase of Rs. 7,082 as compared with the previous year. There is now little room for the expansion of the revenue derived from the road cess which is already levied at the maximum rate.

Pounds.

231. The income from pounds shows an improvement of Rs. 19,371, which is shared by all the Divisions; but in six districts, viz., Birbhum, Bankura, Midnapore, Nadia, Khulna and Champaran, there was a decrease. With regard to the decline in Birbhum, the Chairman observes that it is not due to any falling off in the competition amongst bidders; he ascribes it to the fact that persons who detect cattle trespassing, instead of impounding them, release them on payment of a small fine by the owner. It is reported that stringent orders have been issued forbidding the practice; but there is nothing illegal in the practice, and persons detecting cattle trespassing are not legally bound to impound them. It is probable that the income from pounds can be improved by the more general adoption of the system of local sales, which has already in some districts led to an increase in the revenue during the present year. The decrease in Bankura is more apparent than real, as there was no collection of advance rents as in previous years; in Champaran it is ascribed to the reduction in the indigo cultivation in that district. The total outstanding balance on account of pound rents was Rs. 26,929 against Rs. 31,814 in the previous year. The District Boards of Birbhum, Darbhanga and Hazaribagh, and the Sambalpur District Council, realised the rents in full.

Education.

232. The increase in the receipts was Rs. 6,340, which occurred under the sub-head "Contributions" and was shared by all Divisions, except the Presidency Division, where the receipts declined from Rs. 6,380 to Rs. 1,014. The decrease in the Presidency was due to the fact that in the previous year the Khulna District Board received a special contribution of Rs. 6,000 from the Khulna Coronation Committee towards the cost of opening a technical school.

Medical.

233. Under this head also the receipts show an improvement of Rs. 13,896 under "Contributions," which includes grants from Government and subscriptions from the public. The increase was shared by all the Divisions, and was largest in Patna, where the receipts rose from Rs. 4,829 to Rs. 10,244. No revenue was derived from this source by the District Boards of Nadia, Murshidabad and Hazaribagh, or by the District Council, Sambalpur.

Miscellaneous.

234. The income under this head increased by Rs. 9,878. The District Board of the 24-Parganas received for the first time Rs. 5,395 as its share of the surplus profits of the Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway. The Howrah District Board received an increase of Rs. 4,648 on its share of the surplus receipts of the Howrah-Amta Light Railway, and the Hooghly District Board received Rs. 2,341 from the Howrah-Sheakhala line.

Civil Works.

235. There was a large increase of Rs. 12,72,320 under this head, which occurred mainly under "Contributions" (Rs. 12,43,410). Under the orders of the Government of India a grant of Rs. 8,87,000 was made from Provincial Revenue to augment the resources at the disposal of the District and Local Boards. There has of late years been a tendency to impose new duties upon the Boards without providing additional funds to meet them, while there has been no corresponding expansion in the revenue assigned to them. The cesses are limited by law, and the other sources of revenue from ferries, pounds and the like are small. In order to establish equilibrium and to enable the Boards to expand their operations, a grant approximately equivalent to one-fourth of the revenues derived from Provincial Rates was sanctioned, and has been continued during the present year. Special grants aggregating Rs. 80,205 were also made by Government for roads.

Ferries.

236. The receipts from ferries rose in sixteen districts and fell in eleven, and in the aggregate there was a small rise in the income of Rs. 5,235. The largest gains occurred in Howrah (where the income rose from Rs. 4,028 to Rs. 10,874), the 24-Parganas (Rs. 5,617) and Muzaffarpur (Rs. 6,125). These are ascribed to better settlements and better supervision. The greatest loss occurred at Darbhanga, where the income fell from Rs. 58,283 to Rs. 42,092, partly on account of the floods of August and September 1905, and partly because the security deposits of the ferries settled in 1905-1906 were not paid before the close of the year.

Loans.

237. No loan was taken by any District Board during the year.

Deposits and Advances.

238. The receipts increased by Rs. 28,546, but the variations call for no remarks.

EXPENDITURE.

Administration.

239. The cost of office establishment increased by Rs. 6,496, while contingencies were less by Rs. 1,574. The variations were unimportant.

Pounds.

240. There was an increase in expenditure of Rs. 7,455 under this head, chiefly in the Patna and Orissa Divisions. In the former Division the increase was due to the construction and repair of pound sheds, the establishment of new pounds and the payment of allowances to three post-masters for the management of the local pounds. In Orissa the inclusion of the charges incurred by the Sambalpur District Council accounts for the increase.

Education.

241. The total expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 12,08,900, as compared with Rs. 11,81,520. There was thus an increase of Rs. 27,380, which was incurred in the Presidency, Bhagalpur and Orissa Divisions, the other Divisions showing a decrease in expenditure. The Sub-Inspectors of Schools were transferred from the service of the District Boards to that of Government, with effect from the 1st January 1906, and the salaries of these officers having in consequence been paid by Government, there is an apparent decline of Rs. 25,155 in the expenditure on inspection. Rupees 1,11,608 was expended on the maintenance and management of schools, as compared with Rs. 2,66,486 in the previous year. The decrease under this head is also only apparent, and is due to an alteration in the Patna Division in the classification of the expenditure which is now shown under "Grants-in-aid." Under Grants-in-aid the expenditure rose by Rs 2,01,064. One high school, 128 middle schools, 95 upper and lower primary schools, with 503, 8,327 and 8,480 pupils on their rolls, respectively, were maintained by the District Boards during the year. In the upper and lower primary schools aided by the District Boards 4,463 and 59,907 girls, respectively, received instruction during 1905-1906.

Special Schools.

242. Technical or industrial schools are maintained by the District Boards of Burdwan, Midnapore, Khulna, Ranchi, Hazaribagh and Manbhum. The Bhagalpur District Board decided during the year to establish a school, which has now been opened, and the proposal of the District Board of Monghyr to open a technical school is under the consideration of the Education Department. The management of the technical school at Midnapore has not been altogether satisfactory, and the Government grant has in consequence been suspended since April 1905. The buildings and accommodation are very unsuitable; and the Director of Agriculture, who recently inspected the school under the orders of Government, has now recommended that it should be

transferred to a new site near the college where suitable buildings should be erected, and that the management should be placed in the hands of a Committee, of which the Magistrate should be the *ex-officio* President. The seri-agricultural school at Sabong, in the Midnapore district, had on its roll only four pupils against six and eight in the two preceding years. A school-house was constructed during the year, with quarters for the teachers, and also a nursery and plant for the manufacture of silk. Besides the technical schools maintained by the Boards mentioned above, several District Boards provided scholarships for pupils under instruction at the Sibpur and Bihar Engineering Colleges, and at the Jaipur Art School. On the whole, unfortunately, it must still be said that little progress has as yet been made in the development of technical and industrial education. The schools established by the Boards have not received the support from the public which might have been expected.

Industrial development.

243. On the whole little success has attended the efforts of the District Boards to introduce the fly-shuttle loom. The Commissioner of Burdwan, however, reports that the interest now aroused in the country in the improvement of the textile industry has induced many people to set up these looms in various parts of the Midnapore district, and that many weavers who had sought employment in other industries have returned to their looms. The fly-shuttle loom was extensively used in the Hooghly district, and a few Japanese and other looms of improved pattern were also brought into use during the year. Besides cloth, other articles of less importance, such as nibs, pen-holders, brushes, blacking, bronko and blanko, are also being manufactured in this Division in small quantities. In the Bhagalpur Division, the weaving class started by the Monghyr District Board was continued during the year, and four students who had learnt the use of the loom set up looms of their own on leaving. Sixteen students are shown on the rolls of the weaving school maintained by the Manbhum District Board, but it is reported that the pupils who have completed the course of instruction are unable to purchase improved looms and still continue to use looms of the old pattern. The District Board agreed to advance two-thirds of the cost of looms and to charge no interest on the advance, but up to the present the offer has not been accepted. The question is one of considerable importance, as it is obviously useless to instruct persons in the use of the fly-shuttle loom who will subsequently have no opportunity of applying the experience they may have gained, and it is difficult to believe that it is want of money only which prevents the weavers who have been instructed from making use of the improved loom.

An agricultural and industrial exhibition was held at Midnapore, at which samples of rice, hemp, tobacco, cotton, potato, jute and different kinds of vegetables which were experimentally cultivated in the garden attached to the seri-agricultural school at Sabong were exhibited. The exhibits obtained a silver medal, a first class certificate and a prize of Rs. 10. The school has, it is reported, created among the cultivators a desire to grow potatoes on an extensive scale. Improved fly-shuttle looms were exhibited at the Sonepur Fair and also at the Muharrum fair held at Darbhanga.

Medical.

244. The expenditure increased by Rs. 56,310. The outlay on hospitals and dispensaries rose by Rs. 26,835, that on sanitation and vaccination by Rs. 6,612, and that under "Miscellaneous" by Rs. 9,646. The total number of dispensaries maintained by the Boards was 119 against 110 in the previous year, and the number of aided dispensaries rose from 133 to 137. Two new dispensaries were opened by each of the District Boards of Burdwan and Hazaribagh, and one each by the District Boards of Hooghly, Patna, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Palamau and Manbhum. The Patna District Board maintained the largest number of dispensaries (11), besides contributing Rs. 500 a month to the Bankipore dispensary; the Burdwan District Board maintains ten, of which no less than five have been opened in the past two years. No dispensaries were maintained by the District Boards of Bankura, Murshidabad and Sambalpur. The Shahabad District Board contributed Rs. 20,000 towards the cost of erecting a new hospital building at Arrah.

Sanitation.

245. The Patna system of village sanitation, though tried in all the Divisions, hardly proved the success that was anticipated. It is practically only in the district of Patna itself that the work was carried out, on a systematic plan, in accordance with the programme drawn up by the Local Boards. In this

district 181 insanitary villages were cleansed at a total cost of about Rs. 2,500. The Shahabad District Board spent over Rs. 2,123, but it is reported that the supervision was inadequate and that the value of the work done was small. In the Burdwan Division the total expenditure was only Rs. 2,800, and, with the single exception of the District Board of Midnapore, very little interest in the matter was shown by the Boards. In the Chota Nagpur Division no expenditure was incurred; but it must be remembered that in this Division most villages have the advantage of a good natural system of drainage. In the Presidency Division only the sum of Rs. 100 was spent in Murshidabad, no expenditure being incurred in Nadia, Jessore or Khulna. Considering the unhealthy reputation of these three districts, it is strange that the local authorities should be so apathetic. In the Bhagalpur Division the total expenditure was Rs. 1,095, practically the whole of which was incurred in Monghyr, where 47 villages were cleansed. In the Orissa Division no expenditure was incurred during the year on village sanitation in Puri or Balasore. In Cuttack, the Sadar Local Board spent a sum of Rs. 370 in looking after the sanitation of four typical villages, and it is reported that the Jajpur Local Board spent a sum of Rs. 500 in improving the sanitation of 109 villages in that subdivision. Considering that this represents an average expenditure of a little under Rs. 5 a village, it is improbable that the results obtained were of much value. Unless and until members of District and Local Boards and Union Committees are themselves prepared to see that the work is carried on in a systematic manner and to supervise it themselves while in progress, little or no success in this direction can be expected.

Veterinary charges.

246. The total expenditure increased by Rs. 9,560, and all District Boards, with the exception of Howrah, Jessore and Sambalpur, incurred expenditure under this head. At Khulna the District Board opened a veterinary hospital; the Cuttack District Board opened a hospital attached to the existing dispensary and the Manbhum District Board established a dispensary. The Veterinary Assistant attached to the Monghyr Dispensary visited 64 villages and treated 1,149 animals. Satisfactory work was also done in Muzaffarpur. About five hundred cattle were inoculated with the anti-rinderpest serum in the districts of Burdwan, Midnapore and Monghyr; but the Commissioner of Burdwan reports that the endeavours of a Veterinary Assistant to inoculate cattle in the interior of Birbhum proved futile, owing to the prejudice of the people against the operation.

Civil Works.

247. The expenditure shows a large increase of Rs. 3,92,403, which occurred mainly under "Communications" (Rs. 2,89,999), Buildings (Rs. 36,459), Water-supply (Rs. 43,754) and Establishment (Rs. 31,192). The Boards maintained 2,590 miles of metalled and 18,567 miles of unmetalled district roads, and 14,030 miles of village roads. Several large bridges were built in the districts of Gaya, Shahabad, Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Saran, Monghyr, Bhagalpur and Purnea, and important roads were made in the districts of the 24-Parganas, Nadia, Ranchi, Gaya, Shahabad, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Saran, Champaran, Monghyr, Bhagalpur and Purnea.

Water-supply and Water-works.

248. The total expenditure on the improvement of water-supply increased by Rs. 43,754, or 68 per cent., the increase being shared by all the Divisions, except Burdwan; the District Boards of Champaran, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga incurred no expenditure under this head, while only Rs. 15 was spent by the District Council of Sambalpur. The returns from the Burdwan Division are disappointing, the figures indicating a further falling off in the activity of the Boards in all the districts, except Burdwan and Midnapore. In Bankura, out of a budget grant of Rs. 10,000, only Rs. 2,419 was spent, and in Howrah, out of a provision of Rs. 3,000, only Rs. 464 were spent. Similarly, in Midnapore, out of an allotment of Rs. 11,417, only Rs. 3,854 was spent, and in Hooghly practically nothing was done.

Drainage.

249. The only expenditure under this head was incurred in three districts of the Presidency Division. Detailed plans and estimates of the cost of the project for excavating the old bed of the river Kausiki in the Hooghly district have now been prepared, and steps are being taken for the acquisition of the land required for the work. The scheme, when carried out, will greatly improve both the drainage and the water-supply of a large area. In the

24-Parganas work was in progress on the Magrahat-Usti scheme, and an application was also made by the District Board under the Sanitary Drainage Act for the improvement of the beds of the Nawai and Sunti rivers in the Baraset subdivision. This scheme is at present under the consideration of the local officers of Government. In Jessore, Drainage Commissioners have been appointed under the Sanitary Drainage Act for the improvement of the river above the town. The latter portion of the scheme is to be carried out by the District Board. Another scheme for the re-excavation of the Muchikhali khal is pending before the District Board. In Khulna the Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act was applied to an area of 3½ square miles in and about the Bagerhat station road, and the Drainage Commissioners appointed under the Act are considering the project.

Roads.

250. The total length of metalled roads maintained by the several District Boards increased by 65 miles, of unmetalled roads by 218 miles, and of village roads by 252 miles. The expenditure on the repairs of metalled roads was nearly 8 lakhs of rupees; in the case of unmetalled roads it amounted to about 6½ lakhs; while for village roads it was nearly 2 lakhs. The average expenditure per mile on metalled roads was Rs. 302, on unmetalled roads Rs. 35, and on village roads Rs. 13. The cost of repairs per mile of metalled road varied from Rs. 306 in the Presidency Division to Rs. 189 in Chota Nagpur. In the latter Division the cost has risen by Rs. 73 a mile as compared with last year, but no explanation of the increase is given. In the case of unmetalled roads the cost was between Rs. 41 in the Burdwan Division and Rs. 28 in Bhagalpur. The expenditure on original works connected with metalled roads exceeded 2½ lakhs, while over 8½ lakhs were expended on unmetalled and about Rs. 36,000 on village roads.

Railway Feeder Roads.

251. The Burdwan District Board undertook the construction of two important feeder roads and the metalling of a third. In Birbhum the construction of four roads was undertaken, whilst in Bankura four such roads were completed and the work on a fifth road was in progress. The Midnapore District Board completed one road and was engaged in the construction of three other roads. In Hooghly work was in progress on three roads; the Howrah District Board expended Rs. 9,190 on this account; and the District Board of the 24-Parganas spent Rs. 19,024 on the construction or metalling of six feeder roads. In Gaya land was acquired for four feeder roads, and three were completed during the year; and in Darbhanga one road was under construction. The Muzaffarpur District Board completed one important feeder road, and two more were in course of construction. In Monghyr work continued on four important roads, which were estimated to cost Rs. 1,35,220. The Bhagalpur District Board commenced work on one road, and have in contemplation the construction of two other roads. In Cuttack seven small feeder roads were constructed during the year, and one each in Puri and Balasore.

Miscellaneous improvements.

252. In all the divisions, except Burdwan, programmes and working-plans for roadside aboriculture have now been drawn up, and work is being carried on in accordance with them. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 29,233, and the receipts obtained by the Boards from the sale of fruits and timber are reported to be Rs. 5,501.

Railways and Tramways.

253. No new lines were constructed during the year, but several projects are being considered. A proposal to construct a light railway from Memari to Chakdighi in the Burdwan district was under the consideration of the District Board. Statistics are also being collected for a light railway on the Arrah-Sasaram road, in the Shahabad district. A project for a line from Krishnaghar to Jellinghi was worked out at a cost of Rs. 9,800, and the scheme is now under the consideration of the Nadia District Board.

The Howrah-Amta, the Howrah-Seakhala, the Bukhtiarpur-Bihar and the Baraset-Basirhat light railways continued to work satisfactorily. The Boards' shares of the surplus profits in 1905 were—

	Rs.
Howrah District Board	39,563
Hooghly „ „	2,419
Patna „ „	90
24-Parganas „ „	5,395

Closing Balances.

254. The actual closing balances of the District Boards, excluding deposits, amounted to Rs. 23,68,633 against Rs. 14,25,099 at the end of the previous year. The aggregate of the minimum working balances fixed for District Boards under the Account Rules amounts to about 4½ lakhs; the actual balances at the close of the year were therefore more than four times in excess of the prescribed minimum. In the Patna Division the closing balance has been steadily rising since 1901, and it now stands at nearly Rs. 10,00,000. Darbhanga is responsible for the heaviest balance, viz., Rs. 2,09,800, and it is reported that much of this was due to failure on the part of the District Board to work up to the sanctioned programme for civil works. In Gaya the unexpended balance under the head "Civil Works" amounted to Rs. 1,01,552, the short expenditure being attributed to failure of contractors in certain cases, to delay in the proceedings for acquiring land in others, and also to delay in obtaining the requisite sanction of higher authority to estimates for large works for which allotments were made in the budget. In Saran also the large balance is accounted for by the fact that the full allotment for civil works was not spent, the actual expenditure amounting to Rs. 1,39,700 as against the budget allotment of Rs. 2,31,846. The general result in the Presidency Division was also unsatisfactory, the closing balance having increased by Rs. 1,38,532. The large closing balance in Purnea in the Bhagalpur Division (Rs. 85,063) is also noticeable. In the Burdwan Division the actual closing balance rose from Rs. 2,06,196 to Rs. 3,89,755. This failure on the part of the District Boards to work up to their sanctioned programmes is disappointing, though possibly it was for the most part unavoidable.

Amendment of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act, 1885.

255. The revised Bill to amend the Act was not introduced in the Bengal Legislative Council until November 1906 after the close of the year under review.

Volunteering.

Volunteering.

256. The most important events under this head during the year were the enrolment of the European employés of the Rifle Factory and Rolling Mills at Ishapur as a new battery in the Cossipore Artillery Volunteers, the grant of a piece of land at Samastipur for the use of the Bihar Light Horse as a site for an Armoury and Sergeant-Instructor's quarters and the abolition of the 3rd Battalion of the Calcutta Volunteer Rifles, which was amalgamated with the 1st and 2nd Battalions. The enrolled strength of the Volunteer corps in Bengal was 5,700 on the active list and 165 reservists.

Marine.

(Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India—Section XXXII, Port Trust)

[The information contained in the Chapter below has been obtained partly from the correspondence with the officers and public bodies with whom the Marine Department is concerned, and partly from certain reports which are annually submitted to that Department. The reports consulted are as follow:—

Annual Report of the Port Officer of Calcutta for the year 1905-1906.
Report on the working of Shipping Offices in Bengal, 1905-1906.
Annual Report of the Health Officer of the Port of Calcutta for 1905.
Administration Report of the Port Commissioners, Calcutta, for 1905-1906.
Administration Report of the Howrah Bridge for 1905-1906.
Administration Report of the Orissa Ports for the year 1905-1906.]

THE PORT OF CALCUTTA.

Pilot Service and receipts from pilotage.

257. At the close of the year, there were 49 qualified Pilots on the strength, being the same number as in the previous year. Two casualties occurred during the year, and were met by the appointment as Mate Pilots of two qualified leadsmen. Three leadsmen apprentices were appointed during the year.

The sanctioned strength of the service is 58. This can only be worked up to as the leadsmen qualify. At the close of the year there were 18 leadsmen under training as against 17 in the previous year.

The pilotage receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 13,62,785, against Rs. 13,54,160 of the previous year.

258. One thousand five hundred and fifty-three vessels arrived at the port during the year, and the number of vessels that sailed from it was 1,569. The total number of arrivals and departures was thus 3,132, or 105 more than that of the previous year. These figures represent a gross tonnage of 5,818,673 inwards and 5,838,994 outwards. Of the total number of vessels visiting the port, only 17 were sailing ships. The average tonnage of steam and sailing vessels inwards and outwards was 3,722, against 3,734 in the previous year. Arrival and departure of vessels.

Altogether 19 vessels, 9 inward and 10 outward, were neaped for want of sufficient depth of water over the bars, against 15 vessels during the previous year. The number of vessels detained at the Sandheads for want of Pilots was six, as compared with 13 in the year 1904-1905. The shortest detention was 14 hours 45 minutes, and the longest 27 hours 50 minutes, the average detention being 20 hours 7 minutes.

259. There were 7 collisions and 22 groundings, against 5 collisions and 23 groundings in the previous year. In two cases of collision the Pilots concerned were held to blame for error of judgment. With regard to the groundings, the Pilots were in fault in three instances. Forty-one preliminary enquiries into shipping casualties were held by the Port Officer, as the result of which four cases were referred to Departmental Courts of Enquiry and eight to Marine Courts of Enquiry. No Court for the trial of Pilots under Act XII of 1859 was held during the year. Casualties.

260. One hundred and eight candidates appeared at the examination for Colonial and Home Trade certificates of competency, of whom 65 passed; 390 candidates also appeared at the different examinations for certificates of competency as Masters, Serangs, Engineers, and Engine-drivers of Inland vessels under Act VI of 1884, but only 132 were successful. Examinations.

261. The establishment of wireless telegraphy between Saugor Island and the Sandheads has been of some advantage to the Mercantile community and the Shipping Agents. The steam pilot vessel *Fraser* has been fitted with the necessary apparatus for the purpose. The construction of a second steam pilot vessel has now received the approval of the Government of India and the contract for the vessel will shortly be placed. Establishment of wireless telegraphy between Saugor Island and the Sandheads.

CALCUTTA SHIPPING OFFICE.

262. The receipts of the Calcutta Shipping Office during the year 1905-1906 amounted to Rs. 83,617 against Rs. 85,723 in the previous year. The reduction is mainly due to a decrease of Rs. 2,238 in the receipts from shipping fees. Finance.

263. The expenditure showed a decrease of Rs. 9,139, the figures being Rs. 41,180 against Rs. 50,319.

The main cause of the decrease is the fact that in 1904-1905 the expenditure was raised abnormally owing to the repayment of arrears of overtime fees earned between 1901 and 1904.

264. The number of seamen shipped and discharged was:— Seamen shipped and discharged.

Shipped	...	...	...	... 41,529
Discharged	...	...	...	... 37,864

There has been a slight increase in the number of seamen shipped under European articles, but the number discharged has decreased by 209. This result was obtained by close scrutiny into all applications submitted for discharge. The shipments and discharges under Indian articles were less by 477 and 1,167. This is attributed by the Shipping Master to the gradual expansion of the port of Chittagong and to the substitution of Europeans for natives in the Orient Pacific Line, which has hitherto largely utilized native labour in the working of their vessels.

In addition, 123 seamen were shipped and 96 discharged by Foreign Consuls.

The number of distressed seamen assisted with passages to the United Kingdom during the year was 71, against 70 of the previous year. Of these, 27 were invalids, 39 were unable to obtain employment, and 5 were sent up from Singapore for repatriation.

HEALTH OF THE PORT.

Inspection of vessels.

265. The number of inward and outward-bound vessels inspected during the year was 2,193 against 2,240 during the previous year. Ten thousand three hundred and ninety-five European and 23,134 Asiatic seamen were inspected on inward-bound vessels; on outward-bound vessels, the numbers were respectively 25,812 and 95,090.

Health of the Port.

266. Twenty thousand three hundred and thirty-nine European seamen arrived at the port during the year, the daily average population of the port being 1,114. The death-rate among them was 17·08 per *mille*. The quinquennial mean death-rate was 19·25.

Lascar crews.

267. Sixty-five thousand nine hundred and fifty-nine lascars arrived at the port during the year, 36,500 in coasting steamers, 25,954 in foreign-going steamers, 77 in sailing vessels and 232 in Turkish and Arab vessels. Ninety-five thousand and ninety lascars left the port.

CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.

Revenue Receipts and Expenditure.

268. The income of the year 1905-1906 amounted to Rs. 89,55,395, against Rs. 89,10,144 in 1904-1905. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 86,64,987. The balance of receipts over expenditure during the year after deducting Rs. 332 under the bad debt account in respect of transactions previous to 1st April 1905 was Rs. 2,90,076. Adding this amount to the accumulated balance of previous years, the total surplus revenue on the 31st March 1906 was Rs. 31,60,501.

Disposal of surplus Revenue.

269. Of this surplus revenue, Rs. 25,98,384 have been set aside as a Revenue Reserve Fund, Rs. 1,51,531 have been contributed for Capital outlay, Rs. 1,67,365 have been allotted to the Fire Insurance Fund, and Rs. 2,43,221 have been carried forward against miscellaneous advances and outstanding earnings.

Capital outlay.

270. A sum of Rs. 53,96,905 was spent on various new works; the following are some of the more important works completed or in progress during the year:—

A four-storied warehouse at the Jetties.
Eighteen hydraulic cranes for handling cargo from and into vessels.
The second graving Dock.
An additional coal berth.
A new crane dredger and twelve mud punts.
Reconstruction of Jetty No. 2, and extension of Jetties to provide for two additional berths.
Improvement of the Port Trust Railway.
Extension of the hide depôts.
Remodelling of the petroleum wharf at Budge-Budge.
Construction in England of the suction dredger *Sandpiper*.

The capital debt of the Trust on 31st March 1906 was Rs. 5,30,41,456. Against this debt, the Commissioners hold properties, including works in progress, stock of stores and materials, cash and securities in hand, aggregating Rs. 7,12,67,008; this does not include the value of the Strand Bank and Howrah Foreshore lands, the capitalized value of which, at present rates of rent, amounts to a considerable sum. Sinking Funds amounting to Rs. 52,36,612 have been accumulated by annual contributions from revenue for the repayment of the debenture loans and may also be treated as an asset. The position of the Commissioners in respect of their debt is therefore satisfactory.

Depreciation and Insurance Funds.

271. In addition to the Revenue Reserve Fund and Sinking Funds, the Commissioners have a Depreciation Fund for vessels and plant, and a Fire Insurance Fund. The addition made to the Depreciation Fund during the year amounted to Rs. 1,37,124; a sum of Rs. 76,481 had to be withdrawn to meet capital expenditure, chargeable to the fund, leaving a balance of Rs. 8,29,392 at the close of the year. The sum at credit of the Fire Insurance Fund at the close of the year was Rs. 5,99,935.

272. The following table shows the details of the receipts and charges of the Revenue account for the year under review as compared with similar figures of the previous year:— Working results for 1905-1906 compared with those of 1904-1905.

Statement comparing working results for 1905-1906 with those for 1904-1905.

	1905-1906.				1904-1905.				Difference between 1905-1906 and 1904-1905.	
	Income.	Expenditure.	Net revenue.	Net deficit.	Income.	Expenditure.	Net revenue.	Net deficit.	Improvement.	Falling off.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Control	20,598	6,82,515	...	6,61,917	22,673	5,92,900	...	5,70,227	...	91,690
II.—Jetties	12,26,253	6,19,493	6,06,760	...	11,12,961	5,27,370	5,85,591	...	21,169	...
III.—Tea Warehouse ...	1,37,935	83,075	54,860	...	1,27,675	72,491	55,184	...	...	324
IV.—Petroleum Wharf ...	2,19,281	35,940	1,83,341	...	2,80,205	51,970	2,28,235	...	...	44,894
V.—I. V. Wharves ...	4,42,986	1,32,372	3,10,614	...	4,14,438	1,39,679	2,74,759	...	35,855	...
VI.—Rentable lands and buildings.	7,45,498	97,368	6,48,130	...	7,76,026	98,721	6,77,305	...	...	29,175
VII.—Port	5,07,352	5,40,220	...	32,868	4,68,334	4,69,452	...	1,118	...	31,750
VIII.—Port Approaches ...	6,58,180	4,72,027	1,86,153	...	6,45,935	5,05,572	1,40,363	...	45,790	...
IX.—Railway	10,17,996	7,18,912	2,99,084	...	8,95,376	7,77,102	1,18,274	...	1,80,810	...
X.—Wet Docks	21,95,621	24,26,325	...	2,30,704	23,53,624	23,11,739	41,885	...	...	2,72,589
XI.—Dry Docks	2,52,933	68,222	1,84,711	...	2,12,941	60,214	1,52,727	...	31,984	...
XII.—River dues	14,53,720	...	14,53,720	...	15,24,529	...	15,24,529	...	...	70,809
Sale of unserviceable materials.	33,162	...	33,162	...	33,271	...	33,271	...	...	109
Interest on current deposits.	1,932	...	1,932	...	178	...	178	...	1,754	...
Interest on Revenue Reserve.	41,948	...	41,948	...	41,948	...	41,948	...	...	...
Interest and Sinking Fund charges.	...	27,88,518	...	27,88,518	...	26,48,932	...	26,48,932	...	1,39,586
Total ...	89,55,395	86,64,987	40,04,415	37,14,007	89,10,114	82,56,142	38,74,249	32,20,277	3,17,362	6,80,926

In May 1905 reductions in the charges for night work and for shipping and landing certain classes of goods were granted. During the year the saving to the trade by these reductions amounted to Rs. 3,04,900, while, had the rates current in 1902 for services rendered generally been still in force, the receipts for 1905-1906 would have been increased by Rs. 10,80,000 on the volume of the trade of the year.

The receipts from river dues show a decrease by Rs. 70,809 this year. They exceed, however, the receipts of the year 1903-1904 by Rs. 3,90,141. The question of treating these dues as a permanent source of income is under consideration.

The Railway receipts which fell off during 1904-1905 show a considerable increase. This is due mainly to the large increase in exports of coal; there was also a reduction in the hire of rolling-stock from foreign railways.

The decrease in the receipts from the wet docks is stated by the Commissioners to be due to reductions in rates to the amount of Rs. 3,26,637.

The dry dock continues to give a good return on the Capital cost. The surplus on the year's work was Rs. 1,57,252, or 18 per cent. on the Capital outlay of Rs. 8,65,818.

The exports over the Dock quays aggregated 3,348,802 tons, against 3,326,370 tons in 1904-1905. The principal increases are under the heads coal, jute and cotton.

The export of coal was the highest on record, being 23 per cent. in excess of the shipments in 1904-1905, which in turn were 25 per cent. more than the previous record year of 1903-1904. The imports landed at the docks showed a great increase, the total quantity of goods so imported being 206,432 tons, against an average of 15,613 tons during the past five years. This increase is chiefly in the items "Salt," "Sugar" and "Sleepers."

273. Two hundred and fifteen vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 728,446 were accommodated at the Jetties. Vessels berthed at the Jetties.

HOWRAH BRIDGE.

274. The income of the year amounted to Rs. 2,23,380 as against Rs. 1,90,977 and the expenditure to Rs. 1,77,777 against Rs. 2,25,413 in the previous year, yielding a surplus of Rs. 45,603, as compared with a deficit of Rs. 34,436 in 1904-1905. The advance of Rs. 34,436 made in 1904-1905 from the Bridge Reserve Fund to Revenue Account to meet the deficit has been repaid in 1905-1906. Howrah Bridge.

The bridge was opened for the passage of vessels on 155 occasions during the year under review, of which 103 were on the ordinary fixed days of the week (Tuesdays and Fridays), and 52 were on Sundays on special application. The number of vessels which passed through the bridge was the highest on record, the increase being in inland vessels, flats and tugs. One sea-going vessel collided with the bridge.

THE PORTS OF ORISSA.

Finance. 275. The receipts of the ports during the year amounted to Rs. 15,211, against Rs. 14,054 in 1904-1905, showing an increase of Rs. 1,157.

The expenditure amounted to Rs. 19,748, as against Rs. 15,451 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 4,297. The increase is specially marked in Cuttack under head "Pensions," which is due to the recoveries from the Port Fund being made on account of six quarterly instalments of pension to the late Port Officer, False Point. There has been also an increase in Balasore which is due to the purchase of a steel buoy and a Wigham's lamp for Shortt's Island.

The expenditure during the year exceeded the receipts, but owing to the balance of Rs. 11,691 in hand, no contribution was required from Government.

Shipping. 276. Two hundred and seventeen vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 156,341 tons entered the ports as against 215 vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 158,949 tons in the previous year.

Trade. 277. The value of trade was Rs. 91,62,471 during the year as against Rs. 81,04,752 in the preceding year, showing an increase of Rs. 10,57,719.

Passengers. 278. The passenger traffic between Orissa and Calcutta is fairly steady. Almost the whole of this traffic is with the port of Chandballi, and the numbers carried between Calcutta and this port and *vice versâ* were 41,514 and 40,827.

Inspections. 279. The ports were inspected by the Port Officer, Calcutta, during the year. The erosion of Shortt's Island to seaward continues. The structure of the old lighthouse is still standing nearly erect in the sea and is now 505 feet from the nearest high water line of the island.

Health. 280. The general health of the ports was, on the whole, good. One suspected case of plague was landed from the S.S. *Curlew* and proved fatal. Eighteen cases of cholera were landed from the steamers at Chandballi, of which seventeen proved fatal.

Seamen. 281. No seamen were shipped or discharged at False Point during the year under review.

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Agriculture.

[The Report of the Department of Agriculture, Bengal, for the period of 15 months from 1st April 1905 to 30th June 1906.]

Reorganisation of the Department.

282. The lines on which the Department was to be reorganised were indicated in last year's report. A detailed scheme for the development of the Department extending over ten years has now been prepared and is under the consideration of Government. A site for the Provincial Agricultural College has been selected at Sabaur near Bhagalpur; the land required has been acquired; and plans of the necessary buildings have been prepared. Owing to a large increase in the number of applications for seeds and implements, the establishment of a seed and implement store became an urgent necessity. A godown near the office of the Director of Agriculture has been hired for the purpose; a stock of seeds and implements has been collected; and a Superintendent has been appointed to look after the store. Steps have also been taken to form two separate collections of implements, manures, and seeds to be sent round, in charge of competent officers, to fairs and agricultural and industrial shows, for exhibition and demonstration. The preparation of the weekly weather and crop statistics has been made over to the Department; and the preparation of all rainfall statistics has also been transferred to it from the office of the Meteorologist, Calcutta.

Scientific Experiments.

283. Experiments in the cultivation of jute were carried out on the lines indicated by the Inspector-General of Agriculture. Four special jute farms were established in Purnea, Berhampore, Krishnagar, and Chinsura; and work was conducted under the supervision of the Deputy Director. The proposed legislation to penalise the fraudulent watering of jute is still under consideration. About three-fourths of the area under jute cultivation is included in Eastern Bengal; and the Lieutenant-Governor awaits information as to the action which the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam proposes to take in the matter.

It is to be regretted that the experiments made to introduce superior varieties of cotton again failed, the season being very wet even for Bengal. Attempts to improve indigenous varieties of cotton by seed selection are being continued; and a continuous record is being kept of the names of the raiyats, the character of the soil, the nature of the season, &c.

The results of the experimental cultivation of Muzaffarnagar wheat have not been encouraging on the whole, the unfavourable weather of the year being largely responsible for the failure. A scheme for future work in regard to Indian wheat has been framed by the Board of Agriculture. To give effect to the scheme in its entirety a wheat specialist will have to be appointed to control and guide the work of the Province. The question of the appointment of an expert is under the consideration of the Government of India.

Irrigation Experiments.

284. It has been decided to abandon the experiments undertaken on the lines indicated by the Irrigation Commission, especially with regard to economy in the use of water, until it is possible to carry them out on a larger scale, and at more suitable sites, where an officer of some standing can supervise the work.

Last year, an officer was placed on special duty in connection with well-irrigation. He visited the United Provinces, and made himself acquainted with the practice of irrigation from temporary wells, which have proved in famine years so valuable a resource in the eastern districts of those provinces; he then toured round the districts of the Patna, Bhagalpur, and Chota Nagpur Divisions in order to ascertain whether there are any insurmountable obstacles to the extension to those districts of the methods of well-irrigation which prevail in the United Provinces and to indicate localities in which the sinking

of wells may be beneficial. He has completed his tour, and the report of the results of his enquiries is awaited. He has, meanwhile, submitted proposals regarding the training and maintenance of an expert well-boring staff whose services could be lent to landlords and cultivators. These proposals are now under consideration.

Agricultural Stations.

285. It ha been decided by the Government of India that experimental farms should in future be designated agricultural stations. It has further been ordered that a separate annual report of each agricultural station, containing a continuous scientific record of experimental results, should be prepared; that an account of the administration of the station should be appended to the Annual Report of the Agricultural Department; and that with a view to the dissemination of results when an experiment has become sufficiently advanced to yield definite conclusions, separate bulletins, containing an account of the experiments and the results achieved, should be published and widely distributed in the areas affected by the experiments in question. A site for a new agricultural station for South Bihar has been selected near Bankipur, and steps have been taken for the acquisition of the land. The Director has also selected a site near Ranchi for a station for the upland tracts of Chota Nagpur.

Sericulture.

286. The Bengal Silk Committee continued to do useful work. Owing to the transfer of certain important silk districts to Eastern Bengal and Assam, the Government contribution from this Province to the Committee has been reduced to Rs. 10,000 a year with effect from the 1st April 1906.

The Tributary States of Moharbhanj, Keonjhar and Dhenkanal are showing an enlightened policy in regard to sericultural and agricultural development.

In May last the principal firms interested in the silk industry submitted a strong representation, drawing attention to the marked decline in the industry in this province, and asking that prompt measures might be taken to re-establish it. A small Committee was, accordingly, appointed to enquire into the present state of the silk industry and the causes of the alleged decline and to suggest remedial measures. The Committee have completed their work and their report is under consideration.

With a view to the improvement of the *tasar* silk industry, a farm has been opened at Chaibassa in the district of Singhbhum, and work has been already started there.

Agricultural Education.

287. Seven out of nine students passed at the final examination from Sibpur. Two passed students have been selected to be sent to the United States of America, at the cost of Government, to study Agriculture at the Cornell University, Ithaca.

An agricultural class has been attached to the Hazaribagh Zilla School. Some improvement appears to have taken place in the attendance of students at the agricultural classes of the several schools and colleges; and useful work is reported to have been done in some places. It is hoped that the classes will attract more students and that attendance will become more regular when the Provincial Agricultural College is established, especially if scholarships are provided by District Boards.

Agricultural Associations.

288. Divisional Agricultural Associations have been formed in all Divisions, except Bhagalpur, under the presidency in each case of the Divisional Commissioner. Divisional Agricultural Inspectors, selected from the passed students of the Sibpur Agricultural classes, have been attached to the Associations of the Burdwan, Presidency, Patna and Orissa Divisions to act as expert advisers on all questions that may come before the Associations, and to assist the members of local Associations in their work. Agricultural Associations have also been formed in almost every district. These associations have already done useful work.

Weather and Crops.

[Season and Crop Report of Bengal for 1905-1906, Crop forecasts of Bengal for 1905-1906; Report on Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for 1905-1906; Agricultural Statistics of India, Vol. I.]

Character of the Season.

289. During the year 1905-1906, the rainfall was not favourably distributed during any of the three principal agricultural seasons. In March and April, the

weather was unsettled: storms were more frequent than usual, followed by cold weather, and the rainfall was generally largely in excess of the normal. In May, too, thunderstorms were numerous, lowering the temperature and giving abundant rain. June, however, was an exceptionally dry month and oppressively hot, the rainfall amounting to but a small percentage of the normal. The monsoon broke on the last day of June, giving copious rain in July over the whole Province, except in Orissa, where there was a small deficiency. In August, the rainfall was very unevenly distributed, being excessive in Bihar, where it caused floods in the Saran, Champaran, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga districts, but deficient in Chota Nagpur, Orissa and South-West Bengal. In September, the fall was above the normal in all Divisions, and very heavy in Bihar. In October, which is a very critical time for both the *aghani* and *rabi* crops, there was insufficient rain in all except the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions. In November, there was practically no rain, and in the succeeding month very little in Bihar and Orissa. Again, in January 1906, Bihar received less than its normal share, but the rest of the Province had plenty of rain. In February, the fall was abnormally heavy all over Bengal, ranging from four to seven times the average.

290. The table below gives the estimated area and outturn in 1905-1906 of the different harvests, viz., *bhadoi*, winter and *rabi*, as compared with the previous year and a normal year:— Total cropped area.

Name of harvest.	Normal area in acres.	Area cultivated during 1904-05, in acres.	Area cultivated during 1905-06, in acres.	Taking 100 to represent the normal outturn, how much represented the outturn for the year 1904-05.	Taking 100 to represent the normal outturn, how much represented the outturn for the year 1905-06.
Bhadoi	11,378,700	10,822,400	10,679,800	73	73
Winter { Winter rice...	21,443,600	21,097,500	20,822,000	86	88
Winter { Sugarcane ...	461,400	449,400	449,100	90	92
Rabi	12,003,300	11,127,800	11,031,900	73	74
Total ...	45,287,000	43,497,100	42,982,800	79	81

The above figures are taken from the Season and Crop Report published by the Agricultural Department in June last. There has been some alteration in the area shown in column 4, which is due to subsequent revision by District Officers.

The total cropped area of the Province, including the area cropped more than once in a normal year, amounts, according to the latest estimates, to about 45¼ million acres, of which winter rice, which is the staple food-crop of the Province, occupies about 21½ million acres; the various *bhadoi* food-crops occupy about 9¾ million acres, and the *rabi* food-crops nearly 8½ million acres. Sugarcane is grown on about ½ a million acres, and the other *bhadoi* and *rabi* non-food crops, including jute and oilseeds, are grown on the rest.

291. The total area cultivated with all kinds of *bhadoi* crops, both food and non-food, was 10,679,800 acres as compared with 10,822,400 acres in the preceding year and a normal area of 11,378,700 acres. The outturn of the *bhadoi* crops was estimated at 73 per cent., which was also the previous year's estimate. The heavy rains and floods during the monsoon in Bihar seriously damaged the *bhadoi* crops, especially maize and *marua*; while in Orissa, Midnapore, Bankura and Hazaribagh, the crops suffered from want of timely rain. *Food-crops* occupied 9,177,100 acres as compared with a normal area of 9,763,400 acres, and their outturn was estimated at only 72 per cent. of a normal crop. The various *non-food* crops, including jute, indigo, *bhadoi*, *til* and early cotton, were sown in 1,502,700 acres, the normal area being estimated at 1,615,300 acres. The jute crop was estimated at 87 per cent. and indigo at 47 per cent. only. The total yield of all the *bhadoi non-food* crops was estimated at 77 per cent. of the normal. *Bhadoi* or autumn crops.

Winter rice.

292. Winter rice, the most important crop of the Province, suffered from excessive rain and floods from July to September in Bihar. In many places, the newly transplanted seedlings were washed away, and the fields had to be replanted. In Orissa and the adjoining districts of the Burdwan Division and in parts of Chota Nagpur, on the other hand, the crop suffered from want of timely and sufficient rain. The area sown was estimated at 20,822,000 acres as compared with 21,097,500 acres in the preceding year and a normal area of 21,443,600 acres. The provincial outturn was estimated at 88 per cent. of the average, against 86 per cent. in the preceding year.

Rabi or spring crops.

293. There was little rain in October and none in November when the *rabi* crops were sown. The weather continued dry till January, when there was generally good rain in Bihar, causing an improvement in the prospects. There was some amage from hailstorms in Monghyr, Bhagalpur, Patna, Darbhanga, Sambalpur and Palamau. In February and March, again, the abnormally heavy rain caused much damage to the crops in Bihar. The result was that the outturn for the Province, as a whole, was 74 per cent. as compared with 73 per cent. in the preceding year. The total area cultivated with *rabi* crops, both food and non-food, was estimated at 11,031,900 acres against 11,127,800 acres in the preceding year, the total normal area being returned at 12,003,300 acres. The total area cultivated with the various *rabi food-crops*, including wheat, amounted to 8,026,000 acres in the year under report against 8,038,200 acres in 1904-1905, and the outturn amounted to 74 per cent. of the normal. The area sown with the different *rabi non-food* crops, including late cotton and *rabi* oilseeds, was estimated at 3,005,900 acres as compared with a normal area of 3,400,300 acres; and the outturn was estimated at 73 per cent. of the normal.

Sugarcane was planted on an estimated area of 449,100 acres, the same as in the preceding year, the normal area under this crop being returned at 461,400 acres. The estimated outturn was 92 per cent.

Divisional summary.

294. The following summary of the harvests is given, Division by Division.

Burdwan Division.

There was abundant rain in the early part of the year in the Burdwan Division, which facilitated the preparation of the ground for rice crops; during the sowing and transplanting season rain was plentiful and evenly distributed throughout the Division, so that most of the high lands were brought under cultivation and the crops promised well up to the month of September. A break in the rains in October caused the crops on high lands to wither, and the outturn was below normal. The heavy downpour in January and February last caused much damage to the *rabi* crops, and the outturn was consequently low. The outturn of the *bhadoi* food-crops of the Division amounted to 81 per cent. only, while winter rice yielded 91 per cent. of a normal crop. *Rabi* food-crops yielded an outturn of only 61 per cent.

Presidency Division.

295. In all the districts of the Presidency Division, the mean rainfall in the year was much in excess of the normal. It was, however, not favourably distributed, being heavy in April and May, scanty in June, and again excessive in July and September. The October rains were sufficient, but there was an entire cessation in November. The rainfall was again abnormally heavy in January and February. The *bhadoi* food-crops of the Division gave an outturn of only 80 per cent, while winter rice yielded 88 per cent. of a normal crop. The outturn of the *rabi* food-crops amounted to only 63 per cent.

Patna Division.

296. In the Patna Division, the mean rainfall of the year was above the average in all districts, especially in Darbhanga; it was also unfavourably distributed. There was delay in the commencement of the rains in June, and this was followed by very heavy rain from the middle of July till the end of September, which caused floods in almost all the districts of the Division and widely damaged the *bhadoi* crops. This rainfall was to some extent favourable to the paddy crop, although in some districts the newly transplanted seedlings were washed away, and the fields had to be replanted. The outturn of winter rice was on the whole good. The season was favourable for the sowing of the *rabi* crops and prospects were excellent at first; but the cloudy weather in January and the untimely rain in February and in the beginning of March, accompanied by hail in certain districts, did some harm. The *bhadoi* food-crops of the Division gave an outturn of 56 per cent., winter rice 87 per cent., and *rabi* food-crops 77 per cent. The outturn of opium was 87 per cent., and that of sugarcane 91 per cent. of the normal. Indigo yielded only 39 per cent.

297. The rainfall in every district of the Bhagalpur Division was much in excess of the normal, and was so unseasonably distributed that practically none of the crops did well. May was unusually rainy everywhere, but in June the rains held off completely, and the monsoon did not set in until the beginning of July. From the middle of that month until the middle of September, the fall was very heavy. In October, there was very little rain, and none fell in November. The weather continued fine up to the third week of January, when there was generally good rain in the Division; but in Monghyr, Bhagalpur and the Sonthal Parganas it was accompanied by severe hailstorms which caused much damage to the standing crops. There was unusually heavy rain in February and March. The general result on the harvests of the year was that the *bhadoi*, after suffering from want of rain in June, was seriously damaged by the excessive fall in July and August. The winter rice, except where rain fell in the middle of October, suffered generally from the early cessation of the rains; while the *rabi* crops suffered from want of moisture at sowing time and later on from the heavy rain in February, and in certain tracts also from hailstorms. The *bhadoi* food-crops in the Division yielded an outturn of 73 per cent., winter rice 92 per cent., and *rabi* food-crops 74 per cent. Indigo yielded a 70 per cent. and poppy a 76 per cent. crop, while the sugarcane crop was estimated to be equal to the normal. Bhagalpur Division.

298. In Orissa, the rainfall during the year was below the normal in all the districts, and the lowest in the quinquennium excepting that of 1901-1902. Except in Sambalpur, the *bhadoi*, the winter rice, and the *rabi* crops throughout the Division suffered for want of rain. It was deficient both at the sowing time and during growth. Over a great part of the Division, the rains stopped early in October, before the winter rice was in ear, and the outturn was accordingly small. A considerable area near the coast, however, received heavy rain in the latter part of October, and here the winter rice gave a good yield. The yield of the *bhadoi* food-crops amounted to 83 per cent. of the normal, while winter rice yielded a 75 per cent. crop. The outturn of *rabi* food-crops was returned at 81 per cent. of the normal. Orissa Division.

299. In the Chota Nagpur Division, the rainfall was in excess of the normal in the districts of Ranchi, Palamau and Singhbhum, and slightly below it in Hazaribagh and Manbhum. Its distribution, however, was everywhere most irregular, and the crops suffered in consequence. The heaviest fall occurred in the month of July, while there was very little rain in October, November and December, when the winter rice was ripening. The *rabi* crops were much damaged by excessive rain and cloudy weather in January and February. The *bhadoi* food-crops gave an outturn of 80 per cent., winter rice an outturn of 96 per cent., and *rabi* food-crops an outturn of 66 per cent. only. Chota Nagpur Division.

Horticulture.

[Annual Report of the Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta, and the Lloyd Botanic Garden, for the year 1905-1906.]

300. 'Sunn' hemp (*Cortalaria juncea*), the seed of which was obtained from all parts of India where it is grown, was again cultivated in small plots. It was thought that by sowing fairly late towards the end of October, better results than those of last year might be obtained. As it turned out, the result was the reverse of what was expected. Almost all the plants began to flower when little more than a foot high, and they obstinately declined to grow much higher. On two occasions every plot was flattened out by heavy rain, which did not tend to improve matters. As far as yield of fibre is concerned, no results which could be relied upon could be obtained from plants which behaved in such a manner. As the cultivation of 'Sunn' hemp is likely to prove of very considerable importance to India, it is proposed to continue plot experiments until some definite results are obtained, or until the Agricultural Department can take up the experimental cultivation on a larger and more satisfactory scale than is possible on the very limited amount of ground available in the garden. Apart from the experimental side of economic work a considerable amount of useful work has been accomplished during the year in the distribution of economic plants by seed or otherwise throughout India and in their introduction into other countries. Economic work.

Herbarium.

301. Since July 1905, owing to unavoidable circumstances, there has been no Curator of the Herbarium. Consequently work has suffered to a considerable extent, as the multifarious duties of the Officiating Superintendent during the past year have allowed him exceedingly little time for botanical work. However, a decided improvement has been effected in the completion of the scheme of renewal of the cabinets on the ground floor of the building, and the facilities for consulting the collection are now vastly superior to what they were two years ago. The number of specimens received in the Herbarium from India and from other countries amounted to 6,882. The specimens distributed to other Herbaria were about 7,000. A beginning has been made with the formation of a card-index of orders, genera, and species in the Herbarium numbered according to Bentham and Hooker's Genera Plantarum and Hooker's Flora of British India to facilitate direct reference to the Herbarium shelves.

Lloyd Botanic Garden.

302. The condition of this Garden was satisfactory throughout the year. The Curator and the Lepcha collectors visited the high levels to collect Sikkim plant seeds for distribution to the botanical and horticultural institutions of Europe and America.

Financial.

303. The allotments for contingencies for the Royal Botanic Garden were fully spent. Under "Establishment charges" there was a saving of Rs. 5,380-9-7 for the Royal Botanic Garden, and under "Travelling allowance" a saving of Rs. 334-15. The allotments for the Lloyd Botanic Garden were spent in full, except for the sum of Rs. 2-2 saved on travelling allowance. The revenues for the Royal Botanic Garden of Rs. 846-7 and for the Lloyd Botanic Garden of Rs. 233-6-6 were paid into the Calcutta and Darjeeling treasuries respectively.

Forests.

[Annual Progress Report of Forest administration in the Lower Provinces of Bengal for the year 1905-1906.]

Changes in area.

304. A considerable reduction in the area of the forests under this Government was effected by the Partition of Bengal. The Forest Divisions of Chittagong, Jalpaiguri and Buxa-Duars passed to the new Province, while the Forest Division of Sambalpur, formerly included in the Central Provinces, was added to Bengal. The Forest Divisions in the Province were thus reduced from 12 to 10, considerably lightening the work of the Department and making the charge of the Conservator more controllable. The area of Reserves has been reduced from 6,049 square miles to 4,260 square miles, and of Protected Forests from 3,428 to 3,423 square miles. The whole area of the unclassed forests, amounting to 3,753 square miles, passed with the Chittagong Division to the new Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam.

Forest Surveys and working-plans.

305. No forest survey operations were carried out during the year. The most important survey work under consideration is that of the Reserved Forests in the Sundarbans, which, it is hoped, will shortly be carried out on the 2-inch scale, since, until this is done, the prescriptions of the present provisional working-plan and the collection of data for the plan of the future are difficult to arrange.

Communications.

306. Much progress has been made in the opening out of forests by improving the means of communication. A sum considerably larger than in the two preceding years was spent on roads and buildings. The most important work, as in the previous year, was carried on in Singhbhum, where Rs. 25,178 were spent, the result of which in the extension of cart-roads through these inaccessible parts of the Division is already apparent in the increased receipts of revenue. Similar work, but on a smaller scale, is going on in the Angul, Puri and Tista Divisions, the other Divisions for the present being comparatively well supplied with means of export. A sum of Rs. 24,025 was spent on buildings, more than half of which was expended on new buildings, including six new rest-houses.

Protection of Forests.

Breaches of the Forest Law.

307. The number of offences reported is less by 326 than the average for the last three years. The total number of cases taken into Court, however, was 284, the same as last year. Of these, 359 cases concerning 755 persons were disposed of, 238 resulting in conviction and

21 in acquittal. The most unsatisfactory Divisions in this respect are the Darjeeling and Tista Divisions, which, considering their importance, deserve special attention.

308. The year was not a favourable one for protection against fire, and the Department is to be congratulated on the successful result obtained under these conditions. In Singhbhum, where one-third of the area under special measures is situated, good and bad years have followed each other with remarkable regularity, but this year the sequence has been broken. Last year was a good one, but this year, notwithstanding the fact that it was an unusually dry year even for Singhbhum, only 3·5 per cent. of the area under protection was burnt. In the areas under special protection 49 outbreaks of fire were reported, of which only 4 are reported as having been caused by intention or malice. Protection from fire.

309. The important work of protecting the forest trees against creepers was continued, though not over so extended an area as in the previous year. Severe storms are reported as having occurred in Singhbhum and Puri resulting in considerable damage to the forests. There was, however, no frost of any great severity during the year. Wild elephants still continue to damage the Mal plantations in the Tista Division, while in Darjeeling special arrangements have been necessary, as in previous years, to prevent damage from barking deer. Protection against injuries from natural causes.

310. The Partition reduced the controlling staff on the Bengal list from 15 to 11, the Provincial service being unchanged numerically, one appointment going to Eastern Bengal and Assam and one being transferred from the Central Provinces. Proposals for the reorganisation of the Subordinate Forest Establishment are now under consideration. Out of the 22 Rangers, 42 Deputy Rangers and 51 Foresters at present employed, only 11 have passed through the Forest School. The importance of training for executive work cannot be exaggerated, and it is hoped that the reorganisation of the Forest School and the institution of a local Training School will place at the disposal of the Department officers of more practical experience, and will, at the same time, economically assist and further the general opening out and working of the forests now in progress. Administration.

311. Information under this head will be found in Chapter V—Revenue and Finance, under Forest Revenue. Financial results.

Manufactures and Mines.

[Divisional Commissioner's Miscellaneous Reports; Agricultural Statistics of India, Volume I, Tables Nos. 7 (Tea) and 9 (Area and Yield of Crops); Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Sections XXI, Cotton Mills; XXII, Jute Mills; XXVI, Coal Mines; XXVII, Mineral Production; XXVIII, Sundry Industries.]

312. The total area under Jute cultivation in 1905 was estimated at 3,145,000 acres and the total outturn at 8,208,000 bales, as against 2,850,000 acres and 7,267,500 bales, respectively, in the previous year. The outturn was 87 per cent. of a normal crop. Jute.

There were 37 jute mills at work in the Province at the close of the year. The total number of persons employed was 143,429 and the number of looms was 21,763 and of spindles 448,296,—in each case the highest on record. The record of the industry is one of uninterrupted progress.

313. The total number of cotton mills in the Province was 10, all of which are situated near Calcutta. Cotton mills.

There were 439,345 spindles at work in steam cotton mills against 416,522 last year giving employment to an average daily number of 11,765 persons in each mill against 11,227 last year. The quantity of woven goods produced in these mills was 657,275 lbs.

314. The total number of tea plantations in the Province during the year under report was 170 as compared with 175 in the same districts of Bengal proper in the preceding year. The area under cultivation was 53,024 acres and the quantity of tea manufactured 12,781,892 lbs., as against 53,029 acres and 13,952,692 lbs. last year. The daily average number of persons employed in the various gardens was estimated at 41,095. All the plantations are in the Darjeeling district, except one in Hazaribagh and 21 in Ranchi. Tea.

Coal.

315. There were 246 mines working during the year, and the total outturn of coal was 7,234,103 tons as compared with 7,063,680 tons in the preceding year. Of the total output the Raniganje, Jherria and Giridih coal-fields contributed 3,262,536 tons, 3,070,588 tons and 829,271 tons respectively. The daily average number of people employed in the coal mines was 74,071.

Indigo.

316. The outturn of the Indigo crops during the year was estimated at 21,248 factory maunds, the total area sown being reported to be 170,700 acres against 223,100 acres last year and 249,700 acres in the preceding year.

Cinchona.

317. During the year 546,919¼ lbs. of mixed bark were worked up in the factory. Of this quantity, 419,072½ lbs. were Cinchona Ledgeriana and 111,810½ lbs. were Hybrid No. 1, both harvested off the plantation during the year under review and preceding years. The remainder, 16,036¼ lbs., was Cinchona Officinalis purchased during 1904-1905. The amount of Sulphate of Quinine manufactured was 15,777 lbs. 12 ozs., showing an increase of 2,709 lbs. over the outturn of 1904-1905. Cinchona Febrifuge amounted to 5,462 lbs., being 3,436 lbs. more than last year's amount. The manufacture of Sulphate of Cinchonidine was suspended during the year, so that only 375 lbs. were turned out. The total outturn of the factory for the year is 21,614 lbs. 12 ozs., an increase of 5,975 lbs. over that of the preceding year. The average yield of Sulphate of Quinine in the factory was 2·88 per cent.

GENERAL ACCOUNT OF MANUFACTURES AND MINES IN THE SEVERAL DIVISIONS.

Presidency Divison.

318. The chief articles of manufacture in this Division are cotton twist and yarn, gunny-bags and cloth, sugar and molasses, paper, raw silk and silk cloth, shellac and lacdye, ice, country tobacco, soap, aerated water, saltpetre, indigo, brass pots and pans, clay images, bell-metal ware and carved ivory-work. The other minor articles which are manufactured are steel trunks and boxes, locks, mats, palm-leaf braids, coarse cotton fabrics, muslin, fine cotton cloths, blankets, shell-bracelets, ploughs, cutlery and iron-work of different descriptions. Potteries are made to a greater or less extent everywhere; and bricks and tiles and glazed pottery on a limited scale. Excluding the Tarpur Sugar Factory in Jessore which remained closed throughout the year, the total number of factories at work in this Division at the close of the year 1905 was 80; viz., 79 in the 24-Parganas district and one in Nadia. Synthetic indigo has crippled the indigo industry that was once in brisk activity in several districts in this Division. In Nadia, which at one time was the pioneer district in point of this industry, it is now practically extinct, and only one or two factories under the Shikarpur concern carried on the industry on a small scale during the year. Murshidabad is the only district in which the silk industry is carried on extensively.

Chota Nagpur Division.

319. The chief industries of the Division are coal and mica mining, timber trading, the manufacture of shellac, the cultivation of tea, the manufacture of tasar cloths, coarse blankets, brass and bell-metal utensils and ornaments, trade in hides and horns and rope-making from sabai grass.

Lac is produced all over the Division, but factories for the manufacture of shellac exist only in Hazaribagh, Ranchi and Manbhum. The tea industry in Hazaribagh is gradually dying out, and only one garden is still worked. The total quantity of tea manufactured was 4,000 lbs. *Tasar* cloths are manufactured at Raghunathpur, Singbazar and Gopalnagar in Manbhum. The total outturn was 33,840 yards, as against 12,000 in the preceding year. *Tasar* cocoons are collected in Hazaribagh, but only a few are unreeled in the district. Gun, sword-sticks and other articles of ironware are manufactured at Jhalda, Purulia, Begunkudar, Jaipur and Tarasi in Manbhum. Brass and bell-metal utensils and ornaments are made in Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Palamau and Manbhum. Coarse cotton cloths are manufactured throughout the Division. The cloth is strong and durable, and for this reason is preferred by the common people to machine-made goods. Soap-stone is found in thanas Chandil and Manbazar in Manbhum, in pargana Dhalbhum in Singhbhum and in the south-west corner of the Ranchi district. It is manufactured into plates, bowls, tumblers, images and the like, but only on a small scale. Coal is the most important mineral in Hazaribagh, Palamau and Manbhum. The

mica mining industry in Hazaribagh is expanding. There are some soap-stone quarries in Manbhum and Dhalbhum. No machinery is employed in working these quarries, the shafts not being deep.

Burdwan Division.

320. The principal articles of manufacture are silk, *tasar*, jute, cotton, molasses, shell-lac, ironware, brass and hardware, indigo, paper, pottery, mats and chemicals. The most important factories are those of the Bengal Iron and Steel Company at Barakar, Messrs. Burn and Company's Iron works, the Albion Foundry, the Sibpur and Shalimar Iron works in Howrah, the Pottery Works of Messrs. Burn and Company at Raniganj, the Bengal Paper Mills at Raniganj, the numerous jute, cotton, flour mills and rope works in Hooghly and Howrah, the Bone Mill at Bally and the silk filatures in Birbhum and Midnapore. The silk industry is principally carried on in the districts of Burdwan, Birbhum, Bankura and Midnapore. *Tasar* cloth is manufactured in Birbhum at Karidha, Tantipara and Birsinghpur from cocoons imported from the Singhbhum and the Sonthal Parganas districts. The manufacture of jute and cotton in the numerous important mills of the districts of Hooghly and Howrah is the most important industry in the Division. In the majority of cases there was an increase in the outturn. Shellac is manufactured in Birbhum and Bankura. Rope is manufactured on a large scale in the districts of Hooghly and Howrah, the chief seats of this industry being in the several villages of the Serampore subdivision, and in the latter district in the Shalimar and Ghoosery Mills. There are paper mills at Raniganj in Burdwan, while those at Bally were closed during the year. There are extensive coal-mines in the Raniganj subdivision of Burdwan, and one in Birbhum and two in Bankura. The condition of the coal traffic in Burdwan shows a considerable improvement both in the demand and in price. As the Ondal-Sainthia Chord Railway line passes through the coal-fields in Birbhum, it is expected that the industry will develop. Since the opening of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway there has been a steady decline of the business in the collieries in Bankura which are situated in an out-of-the-way place having no connection with the Railway line. At present a large quantity of coal is supplied by rail from the Jherria coal fields, and consequently the local mine owners have suffered considerable loss.

Bhagalpur Division.

321. During the year under report the approximate area under indigo in the Division was 39,000 acres, as against 44,400 acres in 1904. More than half the area is in Purnea. All districts shared in the decrease. Better prices were obtained during the year, and some hope has been inspired that there is still a genuine demand for the natural product in preference to the synthetic dye. With the exception of the Purnea district, however, where the area under cultivation is still 22,500 acres, the industry is being given up everywhere, several factories being closed during the past year. The cultivation of opium is confined to Monghyr and the west of Bhagalpur. The only district in which there is much sugarcane grown is Bhagalpur. In Monghyr the industry was not flourishing during the year owing to the crop being poor. The demand for *tasar* and *bapta* cloth, manufactured at Champanagar and other places in Bhagalpur, is reported to have increased. The manufacture of country cloth by native weavers is still carried on in several parts of this Division for the supply of local needs, but the demand is limited owing to the poor quality of the texture and the competition of foreign manufactures. But in the Sonthal Parganas coarse country cloth is preferred by the aborigines on account of its greater durability. The manufacture of tea is the principal industry in the Darjeeling district. The total area under tea is practically the same as before, a slight decrease under mature plants being compensated for by an increase under immature. An important industry for the manufacture of quinine is carried on by Government in the Darjeeling hills; but no cultivation has as yet been started on private plantations. The manufacture of *firearms* has long been a speciality of the town of Monghyr. The total number of locally manufactured guns and pistols exported was 904 against 898 in the preceding year. There were six coal-mines at work in the district of the Sonthal Parganas during the year under report—three in Dumka, one in Godda and two in Jamtara subdivision. The quarrying of stone for ballast in Pakour and Rajmahal in the Sonthal Parganas was carried on extensively as in the previous year.

Orissa Division.

322. The principal products of the Division consist of gold and silver ornaments, tasar and cotton cloth, brass and bell-metal utensils and ornaments, molasses, earthen pottery, grass, bamboo, reed and leaf mats, wicker-ware baskets, iron-wares, including cutlery and implements of agriculture, etc., stone and wood-carvings, catechu, silk embroidered slippers, horn sticks and toys. These are chiefly made to meet local requirements, but the outturn in some cases is hardly sufficient for the purpose. The town of Cuttack continues to maintain its reputation for silver filigree work, which is exported chiefly to Calcutta by professional traders. In the Cuttack district brass and bell-metal utensils are manufactured, and exported to Calcutta to a certain extent. Tasar and cotton cloths are still manufactured, though on a very limited scale, by the weavers of this country. They are valued more for their durability than for their fineness, but the weaving industry can hardly thrive in the face of cheaper machine-made Manchester fabrics.

There are no mines in any of the districts of this Division worth the name, but laterite, sandstone, limestone and gravel are quarried for building and road metalling purposes. In the Khurda subdivision stone well-rings, cisterns and utensils of various sorts are made from sandstone.

Patna Division.

323. The principal articles of manufacture in this Division are indigo, opium and saltpetre, which are almost exclusively manufactured in the four North Gangetic districts.

The outturn of indigo and its estimated value during the year decreased in all the districts, as compared with the previous year, but although less indigo was produced during the year, better prices were obtained owing to the greater demand for natural indigo. In Muzaffarpur, the increase in the outturn of saltpetre is ascribed to a brisk demand for exportation to foreign countries, and the rise in the manufacture of salt is attributed to the reduction in the salt tax from Rs. 2-8 to Re. 1-8 per maund, and also to a larger sale of local salt in competition with English salt owing to the higher prevailing rate of the latter. Sugar is manufactured more or less in all the districts of the Division. Other articles of manufacture are cloth-weaving, bricks and pottery, brass and copper ware, gold and silver ornaments, and glass blowing in Patna, tobacco, blankets and lac in Gaya, blankets and coarse cloth, pottery and carpets and tents in Shahabad, and shellac, coarse cotton cloth, country soap, brass and bell-metal utensils, earthenware utensils and pots in Saran.

The only mines in the Division are the mica mines in the Nawada subdivision of the district of Gaya. The total outturn of mica during the calendar year 1905 amounted to 236 tons, and the average number of men employed daily in the mines was 817.

Working of the Indian Factories Act.

[Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act for 1905; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XIX.]

Number of Factories and System of Work.

324. The total number of factories in the Province as now constituted at the close of the year under report was 185. Excluding the factories in the districts which have been transferred to Eastern Bengal and Assam, the number at the close of 1904 was 186. Eleven new factories were brought under the operation of the Act during the year, viz. one in Calcutta, eight in the 24-Parganas, and one in each of the districts of Hooghly and Burdwan; while twelve factories were removed from the list, viz., two in the 24-Parganas, one in Nadia, eight in Howrah, and one in Midnapore. As in the previous year, one factory remained closed throughout the year. Work was carried on in 88 factories by shifts or sets, in 84 with midday stoppages, in 7 under a system of shifts and midday stoppages combined, and in 5 with other arrangements. The average daily number of operatives (men, women, and children) employed was 234,725, the corresponding figures for the year 1904 being 224,241.

Inspections.

325. Inspections were made of 3 factories once, of 27 twice, of 35 thrice, and of 119 more than thrice. The inspections were generally attended with useful results, the suggestions and remarks made by the inspecting officers receiving due attention from the Managers concerned.

326. The sanitary condition and arrangements of the factories are reported to have been satisfactory. The premises, as a rule, were clean, well ventilated and drained, and free from overcrowding. The recommendations contained in the Report of the Committee appointed to examine the working of the septic tank installations in Bengal are being carried out. In a few factories latrines of an old and insanitary pattern still exist, but they are gradually being replaced by more up-to-date structures. Instructions are being issued by the Sanitary Commissioner with the object of ensuring a proper sterilization of the septic tank effluents. **Sanitary Arrangements and Ventilation.**

327. Most of the larger factories in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions are provided with excellent and well sanitated cooly-lines for the operatives. The lines of the Gowripore and the Alliance Mills deserve special mention. Great improvements have been effected in the important mill municipalities of Titagarh and Bhatpara. The operatives of certain factories in Howrah live in *bastis* which are being improved by the municipality. Two such settlements were opened out in the two preceding years and four more have been taken in hand. **Quarters for Operatives.**

328. The supply of water is favourably reported on and is said to have been adequate, except in the case of some mills in the district of Hooghly. The Eastern Bengal State Railway Locomotive and Carriage Workshops and the Budge-Budge Jute Mill, which in previous years were unfavourably reported upon in this respect, have since made proper arrangements for an abundant supply of filtered water. **Water-supply.**

329. The general health of the operatives is reported to have been good during the year under report, but plague broke out in the cooly-lines of the Kamarhati (A) Mill at the beginning of the year, there being 15 seizures and 10 deaths. The disease originated in the *bastis* near the lines. It is worthy of note that the mill hands are making more general use of the Factory Dispensaries. **General health of the Operatives.**

330. The Magistrate of Howrah reports that the wages given to operatives in factories are higher than those for similar labour elsewhere, and the Commissioner of the Presidency Division makes a similar observation. Mill labour in Bengal is therefore, generally speaking, attractive to the labouring classes. The condition of the operatives was satisfactory. **Wages and general condition of Operatives.**

331. The total number of accidents during the year was 785 in the districts retained by Bengal, against 709 in the previous year in the same districts. Of these 500 were of a slight and 234 of a serious nature, while 51 proved fatal. Almost all the accidents were, it is stated, due to disobedience, carelessness or negligence on the part of the sufferers. **Accidents.**

332. There were two prosecutions during the year. A Manager was fined Rs. 100 under section 15 (*g*) of the Factories Act for allowing the cooly-lines and the latrines to remain in a filthy state. The same offender was again prosecuted under section 133, Criminal Procedure Code, for causing a public nuisance by stacking bones in the open in spite of warnings received from the Magistrate. **Prosecutions.**

Trade.

FOREIGN SEA-BORNE TRADE.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1905-1906.]

333. The trade of the Province in 1905-1906 was the highest recorded. It represents an advance of over 9 per cent. on the total of 1904-1905, which was the highest then known. Both imports and exports shew an increase, as compared with last year. **Foreign Trade.**

The extent to which the foreign trade of the Province is centred in Calcutta is apparent from the following figures of the value of the trade in 1905-1906 (000's omitted):—

	Province.	Calcutta.
Merchandise—	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	41,90,13	41,60,05
Exports	70,62,50	67,41,95

All the treasure imported into, and exported from, the Province was received at or despatched from Calcutta.

Of the minor ports of the Province, Chittagong, which now belongs to the new Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, is by far the most important. At the Orissa ports of Balasore, Cuttack, and Puri the bulk of the trade consists of rice for export. The trade which is discussed in the paragraphs next below is that of Calcutta only.

Imports of Merchandise.

(Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1905-1906.)

334. The 41·60 lakhs which represented the value of imported merchandise were distributed as follows among the principal articles in the import trade (000's omitted):—

	Rs.	Rs.
Cotton piece-goods	19,38,60	
„ other fabrics	1,03,34	21,44,56
„ yarn	1,02,62	
Iron and steel	...	3,15,66
Sugar	...	2,53,18
Machinery and millwork	...	2,34,95
Petroleum—		
Kerosene	70,98	97,73
Other sorts	26,75	
Hardware and cutlery	...	75,06
Woollen goods	...	64,19
Drugs and narcotics	...	57,51
Liquors	...	54,36
Salt	...	53,30
Apparel	...	51,22
Railway material	...	40,92

Cotton goods and yarns.

335. The value of the imports of cotton goods in 1904-1905 was the highest recorded, and the figures for 1905-1906 shew a further advance both in quantity and value, the increase in total value being 278 lakhs, or nearly 15 per cent. as compared with the figures for 1904-1905. There was a phenomenal advance in the quantity of cotton twist and yarn imported, which was nearly twice as great in 1905-1906 as in the previous year; and the increase in value was 61 per cent. The quantity of dyed yarn imported was about double that of the previous year.

Metals.

336. The increase in the imports of metals which had risen steadily for the three previous years received a check in 1905-1906. Copper, iron and tin fell both in quantity and in value. Imports of copper fell off by 55 per cent., and the high prices ruling throughout the year are the probable cause of this decline. Though the total imports of iron were less than in the previous year, imports of unwrought iron shew an increase of 60 per cent., and at the same time the outturn of pig iron in India was greater than in any previous year. The chief feature of the trade in wrought iron is the remarkable drop in imports of "Other galvanized iron" which includes corrugated-iron sheets. Imports of this class fell from 97 lakhs to 69 lakhs—a decrease of nearly 29 per cent. The reason for this is the heavy imports in the previous year, combined with a rise in prices due to a combination of makers of corrugated-iron sheets. Imports of steel shew an increase of 30 per cent. in value and 26 per cent. in quantity. Imports of tin were the smallest since the year 1900-1901. The prices remained prohibitive throughout the year with a constant upward tendency.

Liquors.

337. Following the sharp contraction of the previous year, imports rose in volume by 16 per cent., and in value by 13 per cent. The rate of duty was raised from Rs. 6 to Rs. 7 per London-proof gallon in the case of ordinary spirits; from Rs. 6 to Rs. 10 per liquid gallon on liqueurs, and from Rs. 8 to Rs. 11 per liquid gallon on perfumed spirit. The steady increase in imports

of brandy, which has been noticeable in recent years, was maintained in 1905-1906. Imports of whisky, which shewed a falling off in the previous year, increased by 20 per cent. in 1905-1906.

338. There was an increase in receipts of 15 per cent. and in value of 18 per cent. of both refined and unrefined sugar (other than molasses). The quantity of beet sugar received was 914,095 cwts.—a rise of 153 per cent., and of cane sugar, 1,512,000 cwts., a decrease of 13 per cent. The heaviest receipts were from Austria-Hungary, the increase being 172 per cent. directly brought about by special concessions as regards freight from Trieste to the chief British Indian ports. The increase from Germany was recorded at 74 per cent, while more favourable crops account for the larger importations by 34 per cent. from Mauritius. A reduction of 17 per cent. in the supplies of Java sugar is accounted for by the inability of the factories in Java to place the better qualities on the market here at favourable rates. Sugar.

339. Imports of kerosene oil from foreign ports were lower in 1905-1906 than in any year since 1888-89. Russian oil which has decreased rapidly in each of the last five years fell from 11 million gallons to 1 million gallons. The fire and the revolutionary disturbances at Baku contributed to this result, but the principal reason is that an American Company which has hitherto supplied the requirements of the Indian market with Russian oil in consequence of short supplies in America has now been able to revert to American oil. Imports from the United States accordingly shew an increase from 2 million gallons to 8 million gallons. But this still leaves the total imports from Russia and the United States combined nearly 4 million gallons less than the combined imports of the previous year. There was also a large decline both in the direct imports of oil from Borneo and Sumatra, and also in the imports of oil from those countries through the Straits. The result is that the total decline in imports of kerosene oil from foreign ports amounts to nearly 13 million gallons. There was also a decline of 6 million gallons in the amount of kerosene imported coastwise from Burma. This decline, however, was due to the fact that early in the year 1905-1906 additional installations for bulk oil were established by the Burma Oil Company at Madras, Bombay, Marmagoa and Karachi. Oil was consequently shipped to these ports direct, and Calcutta was not used as a distributing centre for the rest of India to the same extent as in previous years. Petroleum.

340. The remarkable increase in the imports of woollen goods in 1904-1905, due to an abnormal winter season, was counterbalanced by a correspond-decline this year, amounting to 35 per cent. in value. Piece-goods were less by 17 per cent. and shawls by as much as 57 per cent. Woollen goods.

341. The quantity of salt received in Calcutta in 1905-1906 was smaller by 5 per cent. than the imports of the previous year. Imports from the United Kingdom and Germany were considerably less than in 1904-1905; but Spain, which had sent trial shipments amounting to only 5,000 tons in the previous year, sent 27,000 tons in 1905-1906. Imports from Aden increased from 47,000 tons to 70,000 tons. Consumption of foreign salt fell off by 3,660 tons. This was more than counterbalanced by an increase of 6,300 tons in the consumption of Indian salt. The average price of Liverpool salt for the year was Rs. 50-11-9 per 100 maunds as compared with Rs. 48-10-2 in 1904-05. Salt.

342. Imports from the United Kingdom represent about 69 per cent. of the total import trade (in merchandise and treasure) of Calcutta in the year 1905-1906, imports from other European countries represent about 10 per cent., and imports from Australasia about 9 per cent. of the whole. Of the remainder, about 9 per cent. comes from countries in Asia, leaving a very small balance to be divided between America and Africa. Import trade of Calcutta with other countries.

Exports of Merchandise.

(Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1905-1906.)

343. The value of the export trade of the Province rose from about 64 crores in 1904-1905 to 70 crores in 1905-1906, the chief increases being in jute and hides. Export trade.

Long as is the list of articles exported from Calcutta, the greater part of the value of the trade attaches to the few articles enumerated below (000's omitted):—

	Rs.	Rs.
Jute, raw	15,61,37	28,00,68
„ manufactured	12,39,31	
Hides and skins	...	7,75,89
Opium	...	7,02,34
Tea	...	6,45,13
Grain and pulse	...	6,30,82
Lac	...	3,14,82
Oilseeds	...	2,32,28
Cotton, raw	...	1,34,13
Indigo	...	41,03

Jute and Jute Goods.

344. The value of jute and of the goods manufactured from it (gunny-bags and cloth) represents nearly two-fifths of the aggregate value of the foreign trade of Calcutta, and if account be taken of the great quantity of jute manufactures exported from Calcutta by rail and coastwise for the packing of Indian produce, together with the quantity used on the spot for the same purpose, the importance to the trade of Calcutta of the jute fields of Eastern Bengal and the jute mills established along the banks of the Hooghly is still more striking. The estimated output of jute in 1905-1906 was 8,141,000 bales of 400 lbs. each as compared with 7,400,000 bales in the year 1904-1905. The supply, however, fails to keep pace with the demand, and as a result prices ruling throughout the year were very high, the average being Rs. 44-11-7 a bale. The total value of jute and jute manufactures exported during the year was the highest on record, namely 28 crores, as compared with 20 crores in 1904-1905 and 19 crores in each of the three preceding years. The chief increase in the exports of raw jute was in the amount sent to the United Kingdom, 49,000 tons. Both Dundee and London shared in this increase.

The United States and Germany which are the next best customers took slightly less raw jute than in 1904-1905, but France took 20,000 tons more. The total increase in the quantity of raw jute exported from Calcutta was from 581,000 to 646,000 tons, and the increase in value was from 10 crores to 15 crores. The United States is by far the largest importer of gunny-bags and cloth. The number of gunny-bags sent to the United States was half a million less in 1905-1906 than in the previous year, but the quantity of gunny-cloth rose by 67 million yards, representing an increase in value of 76 lakhs. The United Kingdom took a slightly larger number of gunny-bags and 19 million more yards of gunny-cloth. A smaller quantity of gunny cloth was sent to South America, but a larger quantity of gunny-bags. Australia shews a large increase in combined imports chiefly in gunny-bags. The exports to Straits, Siam, and Cochin China also increased in quantity. In all these cases the increase in value was much higher than the increase in quantity in consequence of the great advance in prices.

Tea.

345. Calcutta still exports nearly three-fourths of the Indian tea sent to foreign ports, but the percentage of the total exports shipped from Calcutta has decreased in each of the last five years chiefly on account of the larger proportion shipped from Chittagong. Thus, though the total exports of Indian tea in 1905-1906 were larger than in the preceding year, Calcutta exported 158 million pounds as compared with 159 million pounds in the preceding year, while Chittagong despatched 41 million pounds as compared with 38 million pounds in 1904-1905. The chief features of the trade of the year were a slight decrease in direct shipments from Calcutta to the United Kingdom, combined with a large increase in shipments to Canada, and smaller increases of shipments to Australia, Russia, and the Treaty Ports of China. More tea was sent to Ceylon, and of the other principal importers of Indian tea, the United States and Germany took rather less from India than in 1904-1905.

Opium.

346. The exports of opium increased in quantity by 978 chests, or 2 per cent., but the value fell by 56 lakhs, or 7 per cent. The Straits took 150 chests more than in 1904-1905, most of this opium being re-shipped to Hong-Kong, China, Siam and the Malay States. Over 1,000 more chests were sent to Hong-Kong. There was a decrease of 200 in the number of chests sent to Cochin

China. There was a considerable fall in the average price compared with the year 1904-1905, from Rs. 1,587 per chest to Rs. 1,434.

Hides and Skins.

347. The *Economist*, commenting on the trade in hides and leather during the year 1905, remarks that there has been a continued scarcity and decreased supply of the raw material, and that since May 1905 prices of the raw material probably advanced fully 20 per cent. Exports from Calcutta in 1905-1906 were 28 per cent. greater than the exports of 1904-1905. Both years shew a great advance in the value of the trade. The value was 482 lakhs in 1903-1904, 575 lakhs in 1904-1905, and 775 lakhs in 1905-1906.

Grain.

348. Exports of grain generally declined in 1905-1906, the fall in quantity being 35 per cent. and in value 24 per cent. The cause of this is the smaller exports of wheat which fell from 8 million cwts. valued at 342 lakhs in 1904-1905 to 2 million cwts. valued at 103 lakhs in 1905-1906. The abnormal cold of the winter of 1904-1905 and the generally unfavourable season produced an enormous reduction in the harvest of the year, especially in the United Provinces, whence Calcutta derives the bulk of the wheat which she exports. There was an increase of 19 per cent. in the quantity of rice exported during the year.

Oilseeds.

349. Shipments of oilseeds in 1904-1905 were the highest on record. In 1905-1906 the quantity fell by 60 per cent., and the value by 50 per cent., and the quantity is the lowest recorded in the last ten years. The acreage under linseed which constitutes by far the greater part of the oilseeds exported from Calcutta, was considerably less in 1904-1905 than in the previous year, both in Bengal and the United Provinces, and the season being unfavourable, the outturn was smaller still.

Indigo.

350. In each of the three years prior to 1905-1906 the exports of Indian indigo had very slightly increased, while the price per Indian maund had fallen sharply. In 1905-1906, on the other hand, there was a decrease in quantity, amounting to 36 per cent.; but the price improved from Rs. 137 to Rs. 158 per Indian maund. England, Austria-Hungary, France and the United States all took much less indigo than in the previous year. Egypt, on the other hand, took nearly 2,000 cwts. more. This must, however, have been chiefly for transhipment.

Lac.

351. The quantity of lac exported rose by 15 per cent., and is the highest on record. The average export price was Rs. 116 per cwt., as compared with Rs. 128, Rs. 116, Rs. 78, Rs. 62 and Rs. 47 in the five previous years, respectively.

Cotton, raw.

352. The exports of raw cotton increased by 70 per cent., and are the largest since 1887-88, amounting to nearly half a million cwts. The European countries, where the short-staple cotton is used for coarser cloths, all took much larger quantities than in previous years.

Export trade of Calcutta with different countries.

353. Of the total export trade of Calcutta, the principal shares were taken by the United Kingdom (26 per cent.), United States (16 per cent.), Germany (11 per cent.) and China (10 per cent.). The other European countries took 14 per cent. between them, and the Straits Settlements and South America 4 per cent. and 3 per cent., respectively. The relative position of the different countries has varied very little since last year.

The foreign trade of the Orissa ports is of little importance, and represented in merchandise a value of 33 lakhs in 1905-1906 against 30 lakhs in the preceding year. The only article is rice, and more than three-fourths of this was exported from Cuttack.

Frontier Trade.

[Report on the trade of Bengal with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan for 1905-1906, Tables I and II.]

354. The trade with each of the trans-frontier countries in merchandise is stated in the figures appended (lakhs of rupees):—

		Imports,		Exports,	
		1904-1905.	1905-1906.	1904-1905.	1905-1906.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Nepal	...	150·11	208·81	95·51	96·34
Tibet	...	4·11	11·27	7·39	13·52
Sikkim	...	2·35	4·08	3·61	4·75
Bhutan	...	5·60	11·11	1·38	1·54

The bulk of the imports from Nepal consists of agricultural and pastoral products, and the trade is therefore liable to large fluctuations from seasonal causes. Food-grains are credited with more than half of the total value of the exports from Nepal to India, and the principal variety is rice, both husked and unhusked, the exports of which were valued at 104 lakhs. Live animals were imported to the value of 28 lakhs. The cultivation of jute in Nepal appears to be still increasing, and the imports in 1905-1906 (3,21,511 maunds) are 57 per cent. above the figures of 1904-1905 and 355 per cent. above those of 1898-99. The other principal imports are oilseeds, mainly linseed, mustard and rapeseed, hides and skins, and ghi. The chief staples of export are cotton goods which formed 42 per cent. of the total exports in 1905-1906, metals, salt, provisions (other than fish and ghi), sugar, and petroleum. The total under each of these heads shows a decline except in case of sugar as compared with the figures of the previous year, the chief decreases being in foreign piece-goods (4 per cent.) and metals other than brass, copper and iron (31 per cent.).

The trade of Bengal with Tibet, which had received a check in consequence of the military operations in 1904, shows signs of improvement. The imports and exports rose in value from Rs. 11,49,740 in 1904-1905 to Rs. 24,79,996 in 1905-1906, that is, by 115·7 per cent. The chief import was, as before, wool, representing about 71·56 per cent. of the entire imports from Tibet and showing an increase of 200 per cent. as compared with the previous year. Other items of the import trade were horses, ponies and mules, musk, yka's tail, skins of sheep. The export trade chiefly consists in corals, woollen piece-goods and cotton goods.

The trade with Sikkim was, as usual, on a very small scale. Fruits, vegetables and nuts, cereals and wool were the principal articles of import, and cotton goods, rice and salt of exports. The value of the total trade with Bhutan depends chiefly on the value of the timber exported to Bengal. This item shows an increase of 129 per cent., and the total trade of 81 per cent.

Coasting Trade.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1905-1906.]

Coasting trade.

355. Eighty-seven per cent. of the value of the coasting trade appertains to Calcutta, of which the actual figures were (000's in Rs. omitted):—

	1904-1905.	1905-1906.
Imports—	Rs.	Rs.
Merchandise	5,55,04	6,00,76
Treasure	7,51	13,03
Exports—		
Merchandise	7,32,35	7,52,47
Treasure	57,15	42,52
Total ...	13,52,05	14,08,78

The increase in the imports of merchandise was due to larger imports of cotton, raw, grey and coloured cotton piece-goods from Bombay, rapeseed from Bombay and Madras, rice not in the husk and teakwood from Burma.

The increase in exports of merchandise was mainly due to larger shipments of coal to Karachi, grain and pulse to Madras and jute manufactures to Rangoon.

Railway and River Trade.

[Report on the Trade carried by Rail and River in Bengal in 1905-1906, Tables I and II.]

Railway and River trade.

356. The main divisions of this trade and its estimated value are exhibited in the following table:—

Year.		Exports from Calcutta to the rest of Bengal and to other Provinces.	Imports into Calcutta from the rest of Bengal and from other Provinces.	Exports from the rest of Bengal to other Provinces.	Imports into the rest of Bengal from other Provinces.
1904-1905 ...	Mds.	40,525,852	227,090,365	34,672,097	21,671,350
	Rs.	40,30,00,310	64,58,74,137	8,26,46,912	9,02,27,944
1905-1906 ...	Mds.	43,653,710	234,444,238	41,612,150	19,869,200
	Rs.	43,28,59,201	76,70,29,762	8,81,18,167	8,88,58,189

Of the total value of the imports into Calcutta (76 crores), imports from Bengal districts represent 74 per cent., from the United Provinces 13 per cent., from Assam 5 per cent., and the balance 8 per cent. from other provinces. Of the total exports (43 crores), 70 per cent. went to Bengal districts, 16 per cent. to the United Provinces, 6 per cent. to Assam, and the remainder 8 per cent. to other provinces.

The principal articles of imports into Calcutta from Bengal were jute (18 crores of rupees), coal (7 crores), and rice (about 6 crores), and these represent about 55 per cent. of the total imports from Bengal. The imports from other provinces consist principally of tea from Assam, opium, lac, cotton (raw), oilseeds and hides and skins from the United Provinces, and raw cotton, wheat, oilseeds and gram and pulse from the Central Provinces and Berar. The exports from Calcutta to Bengal comprise mainly cotton manufactures, metals, sugar, salt, oils, spices and railway plant; while the exports to other provinces consist principally of cotton goods, metals, gunny-bags, sugar, grain and pulse, salt and oils.

The principal articles imported into Bengal from the United Provinces were opium, sugar, grain and pulse, cotton goods, oilseeds, and metals and manufactures of metals; from Assam, tea, paddy, timber, hides and skins, and coal; and from the Central Provinces, railway plant and rolling stock, cotton manufactures (chiefly twist and yarn), and rice; while the chief exports from Bengal to the United Provinces consisted of coal, lac, rice, tobacco, sugar, kerosene, railway plant and rolling-stock, metals, gunny-bags and cloth and spices; to Assam of spices, rice, sugar, tobacco, gram and pulse, and kerosene oil; and to the Central Provinces of coal, sugar, raw silk, rice, tobacco and kerosene oil.

Buildings.

[The details of outlay by the Public Works Department will be found in the Finance Accounts issued annually by the Examiner, Public Works Accounts, Bengal.]

357. The outlay during the year on Imperial, Provincial, and Local and Contribution Works amounted to Rs. 30,42,432, Rs. 62,78,627 and Rs. 2,45,706, respectively, in addition to which Rs. 37,21,499 were spent by the local authorities.

I.—IMPERIAL WORKS.

358. The additions and alterations to the sea-wall at Chandipur were completed. **Military.**

359. The construction of additional *golas* at Sulkea was continued, and the floors of the existing *golas* were improved. **Civil Works. Salt.**

360. At the Patna Opium Factory several works were carried out and a house acquired for a recreation-room for the assistants of the Factory. Additions and alterations were made to the Opium buildings at Motihari. The weighment and settlement sheds at Raffiganj and Mushrak were completed, and two houses at Tungi belonging to the Railway were purchased for a settlement and weighment centre at Wasirganj. **Opium.**

361. The combined Post and Telegraph Office at Laheri a Serai and the additions and alterations to the buildings at Jamalpur, Bankura, Darjeeling, Purulia, Chirkunda, and Aurangabad were completed, and new offices at Kishanganj and Bargarh (Sambalpur district) were nearly finished. A jetty was constructed in the Telegraph Store yard at Dullunda along the bank of Tolly's Nala. **Post and Telegraph Offices.**

Viceregals Residences.

362. In order to provide offices for the Private and Military Secretaries to His Excellency the Viceroy and quarters for the Viceregal staff, &c., the premises Nos. 5, 6, and 7 Government Place, North, No. 5 Wellesley Place, Nos. 1 and 2 Fancy Lane, and No. 2 Larkin's Lane, Calcutta, were acquired.

Secretariat Buildings.

363. Premises Nos. 1 Council House Street and 10 Hare Street, Calcutta, were acquired for the construction of a new Secretariat building for the Department of Commerce and Industry. The new Foreign Office building underwent some necessary additions and alterations.

Surveyor-General's Office.

364. An upper storey was added to the type section building in the Surveyor-General's Office. The Lac Factory buildings at Ranchi were purchased for the use of the Survey Offices, and special repairs to the buildings were in progress.

Churches and Cemeteries.

365. The Puri cemetery was extended, and the levelling off of the site of the new cemetery at Darjeeling was completed.

Miscellaneous.

366. A building for the office and residence of the Electrical Adviser to the Government of India and for the office of the Electrical Inspector, Bengal, was constructed at Bhawanipur. The residence for the Chaplain, Darjeeling Cantonment, was nearly completed.

II.—PROVINCIAL WORKS.

Collectors' and Magistrates' Courts.

367. Thorough repairs to the house occupied by the City Magistrate of Patna were in progress. A court-house was built for the Honorary Magistrates at Ghatal. The extension of the Deputy Commissioner's Court, Chaibassa, was in hand, and materials were collected for the extension of the Deputy Commissioner's Court at Purulia.

Civil Courts.

368. Additions and alterations were made to the record-room of the Judge's Court, Midnapore, and also to the old Magistrate's Court, Muzaffarpur, for the accommodation of the Sub-Judges and Munsifs. The Civil Court buildings at Gaya were being thoroughly overhauled and remodelled. An unfinished building in the compound of the Judge's Court, Arrah, belonging to the local pleaders, was taken possession of by Government under the terms of the agreement, and completed for the use of the copyists of the Judge's office. Double munsifis were constructed at Bolpur and Basirhat, and a single munsifi at Raghunathpur. The treble munsifi at Narail and the work of converting a portion of the Asansol Circuit-house into a double munsifi were in progress.

Subdivisional Courts and Residences.

369. At Khunti a temporary Subdivisional Court was erected and materials collected for the permanent building. At Asansol the eastern wing of the circuit-house was being enlarged and converted into a Subdivisional Court-house, and a residence for the Subdivisional Officer was under construction. A court-house at Dhanbaid and an additional Court at Bihar were in progress, and extensions were made to the Court-houses at Madhubani and Jhenida and the new Extra Assistant Commissioner's Court at Sambalpur. Additions and alterations were carried out in the Nazir's malkhana in Bargarh Tahsil in order to enlarge the male hawalat and to provide a female hawalat.

Munsif's Residences.

370. Munsifs' quarters were erected at Kishanganj, Chatra, and Bhadrak, one set at each place, and two sets of quarters at Asansol were in progress.

Circuit-houses.

371. The old Mess House at Berhampore was converted into a circuit-house, and special repairs and additions to the Bankipore Circuit-house were carried out. Thorough repairs, additions and alterations were started on the buildings originally purchased for the residence of the Collector at Burdwan, but which are to be used as a circuit-house instead.

Excise.

372. The distillery buildings at Bhagalpur were rebuilt, the reconstruction of the distillery buildings at Pakour was nearly finished, and improvements were made in the water-supply of the Arrah distillery. *Ganja* ware-houses, liquor depôts and *bhang golas* were constructed at Phulbani, Darjeeling, Rampur Hât, Midnapore, Siliguri, Kurseong, Bhagalpur and Buxar.

Residences for the Local Government.

373. The addition of an upper storey and the raising of the entrance hall of the Darbar hall at the "Shrubbery," Darjeeling, were nearly finished. The special repairs and additions to "Chajjubagh House," Bankipore, to adopt it as a residence for His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor were completed, and the water-supply arrangements and the laying out of the garden were being proceeded with.

374. Pillars bearing inscriptions indicating the various sites of interest were erected on the battle-field of Plassey, and a bungalow erected for the use of visitors thereto. Monuments and Antiquities.

375. Considerable improvements were effected in the Chief Justice's Court, retiring-rooms and Judges' lavatories in the High Court building. Work on the High Court extension was continued. High Court.

376. Good progress was made with the new Presidency Jail at Alipore. Materials were collected for a new District Jail at Howrah. The Bankipore, Gaya and Dumka Jails were being enlarged. A double-storeyed barrack was constructed in the Puri Jail, and improvements were made in the Chaibassa Jail. Additions and alterations to the Monghyr Jail were in progress. Cubicles were provided in the Juvenile Ward of the Hazaribagh Central Jail. Segregation wards were started in the Hazaribagh, Chaibassa, Gaya and Arrah Jails. The new lock-up at Kishanganj was completed, and a new Sub-Jail at Asansol, the extension of the Contai Sub-Jail and additions and alterations to the Narail and Jhenida Sub-Jails were in progress. Jails.

377. In connection with the proposed Police Training School at Bhagalpur additions and alterations were made to some existing buildings to be utilized for the school, and the additional buildings required were constructed. Temporary buildings were erected at Purulia for the proposed Constables' Training school. Additions and alterations, including the provision of a new barrack for constables, were carried out at the Ballyganj outpost, the Malsalami, Bantra and Bakshara outposts were completed, and the Behala and Khurut outposts were in progress. Police-stations were under construction at Taltola, Chanditolla, Sambalpur and Bargarh (Sambalpur district), and additional accommodation was provided or under construction in the police-stations at Bankipore and Chowk Kallan and in the reserve police-lines at Darjeeling, Krishnagar, Midnapore and Monghyr. Twelve sets of quarters for Police Inspectors were built at different stations. Police.

378. Steps were taken to acquire land and to collect materials for the proposed Engineering and Arts Colleges and Collegiate School at Ranchi. Land was acquired for the extension of the compound of the Bethune College at Calcutta. Several additions and improvements were carried out or in progress at the Dow Hill Girls' School and the Victoria Boys' School, Kurseong. The new block for the Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, was completed. Fair progress was made with the work of remodelling the Hooghly College Laboratory. The additional building for the Hazaribagh Zilla School was completed and the hall of the Ranchi Zilla School enlarged. The Hindu hostel attached to the Hooghly College was improved. Hostels for the Hindu students attached to the Jessore Zilla School and for the Muhammadan students of the Murshidabad High School were under construction, and materials were collected for a Hindu hostel for the Ravenshaw Collegiate School, Cuttack. Educational.

379. At the Medical College Hospital, Calcutta, the new Nurses' quarters were completed, furniture and fittings were supplied to the new Pathological Block, land was acquired and materials collected for a new Surgical Block, and electric lights and fans were installed in the hospital and college buildings. The Administrative Block in the Presidency General Hospital and the Central Hospital, Balasore, were completed. The new ward for male patients in the Campbell Hospital, Sealdah, was finished, and the remodelling of the central portion of the hospital was begun. Additional barracks for students, the work of remodelling the old barracks and the construction of a Pathological Museum in the Temple Medical School, Patna, were in progress. In the General Hospital, Cuttack, an out-door dispensary was constructed, and in the Medical School at the same place a dissecting-room was provided for the female students and a second lecture-room and a museum were in progress. The new dispensary at Naxalbari was finished. Mortuaries were constructed or in progress at Ranchi, Kushtia, Balasore, Gumla and Puri. The Lunatic Asylum at Berhampore underwent certain additions and alterations, and land was acquired and materials collected for the proposed Central Lunatic Asylum at Ranchi. Medical.

380. Additional record racks were supplied to the Registration office, Ranchi. Registration.

381. Necessary improvements, including marble flooring, were being made in the Howrah General Hospital. Land was acquired for the Dufferin Contribution Works.

Hospital, Calcutta. The new hospital at Muzaffarpur was finished. The hostels for the Bihar Engineering School were also completed.

Residences for Government Officials.

382. Land and buildings at Howrah were acquired for residences for Government officials. Four houses at Ranchi were purchased for the European officials stationed at head-quarters, and two more houses at Chaibassa and Krishnagar were purchased for the Deputy Commissioner, Singhbhum, and the District Judge of Nadia, respectively. Residences were completed or under construction for the District Judge, Cuttack, the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Bankipore, the Superintendents of Police at Sambalpur and Puri, and the Civil Surgeon, Sambalpur. The Circuit-house, Hazaribagh, was converted into a residence for the Deputy Commissioner. Special repairs and additions and alterations were executed or in progress to the Collector's residences at Bankura, Berhampore and Krishnagar, the District Judge's residence at Bankura, the quarters of the Superintendent of Police and Assistant Superintendent of Police at Bankipore and Patna City, respectively, and the Civil Surgeon's quarters at Berhampore. Materials were collected for residences for the District Judge of Darbhanga and the Inspectors of Mines at Dhanbaid and Sitarampur.

Miscellaneous.

383. Offices for the Encumbered and Ward's Estates were completed and in progress at Palamau and Purulia, respectively. Two additional buildings for the Settlement Office, Ranchi, were nearly finished, and a record-room was provided for the Settlement Office at Contai. The Native Lunatic Asylum, Dullunda, was converted into a depôt for the Bengal Forms Department. The properties known as "Jessamine Villa" and "Sunbeam Lodge" at Darjeeling were purchased for the offices of the Heads of Departments, etc.

Communications.

Calcutta.

384. A footpath was constructed on the south side of the Lower Circular Road from Chowringhee Road to Zeerut Bridge on the Maidan.

The lighting of the Calcutta Maidan was improved at important road junctions and on the footpath to the west of the Chowringhee Road.

Darjeeling.

385. The most important works in progress or completed in Darjeeling during the year were as follow:—

		Rs.
(1)	New high level, Tista Valley road, first section, estimate ...	4,67,690
(2)	Ditto ditto second ditto ...	Not sanctioned yet.
(3)	Metalling 1st to 10th mile, Tista-Rishi road, estimate ...	22,533

Of the abovenamed works No. 3 was completed during the year.

New trees were planted and the existing ones maintained during the year along the following roads:—

(1) New Cutcherry road, Siliguri.
(2) Ganges-Darjeeling road.
(3) Siliguri station feeder road.
(4) Matigara Hill Cart road.
(5) Matigara-Kurseong road.
(6) Garidhura-Naxalbari road.
(7) Matigara-Naxalbari road.
(8) Siliguri-Sevoke road.

The Bengal-Tibet Road Survey was completed in September 1905, and the Division was closed on the 1st October 1905.

The detailed project for the road has been submitted to the Government of India.

Cuttack. Angul.

386. *Metalled and Bridged Roads.*—The first 8½ miles of the Angul-Tikerpara road were metalled.

The town roads at Phulbani were completed.

Rupees 1,704 were expended during the year on the improvement of the first and second sections of the Cuttack-Angul road by providing additional culverts, etc.

Work on the construction of the Sambalpur-Cuttack Road, Khalsa section, was stopped in 1901-1902.

Raising the second section of the Raipur-Sambalpur road from mile 139 to mile 164 was completed during the year under review.

387. *Unmetalled roads, bridged and drained.*—The work of completing the first section of the Bargarh-Balangir road in the district of Sambalpur was taken in hand during 1905, and culverts and road dams constructed during the year. Sambalpur.

Unmetalled roads, partially bridged and drained.—Rupees 4,211 were expended during the year on constructing 10 culverts and collection of metal in miles 49 and 50 for the improvement of the first section of the Cuttack-Sambalpur road. The work was in progress when the year closed.

The improvement of the second section of the Cuttack-Sambalpur road was approaching completion. The last few miles of the road still remained to be completed.

The special repairs to the Harbhanga-Phulbani road, in progress last year, were completed.

Pucka wells were constructed for the improvement of water-supply at Sitalpani and Harbhanga on the Cuttack-Sonepur road, at Ranipathar on the Harbhanga-Phulbani road and at Jagannathpur on the Angul-Tikerpara road.

The construction of the fair-weather road from Mancheswar to Nuapatna, opposite Cuttack, which was commenced in the previous year, was completed.

The demarcation of the roadside lands of the Cuttack-Sambalpur and Cuttack-Sonepore roads was completed.

Arboricultural operations on Provincial roads in the Sambalpur district were in progress during the year.

Seven wells were sunk and 800 bamboo gabions were purchased in connection with planting trees along the Banki section of the Cuttack-Sonepur road.

The construction of a first class well in the camping ground at Haldipur, in the district of Sambalpur, was commenced in 1904-05, but had to be stopped as there were heavy slips. The site had to be abandoned and a second site was selected, but sand and water appeared at a depth of 12 feet only, and the work was stopped again.

388. The extension of the staging bungalow at Puri was completed during the year. Puri.

389. Thorough repairs to the part of the Ranchi-Hazaribagh road taken over from the Municipality, clearing encroachments and erecting boundary pillars along the Grand Trunk Road, miles 203rd to 216th, metalling portion of the Lake Road, Hazaribagh, pitching large rubble stone in scours round certain piers of the Barakar Bridge and the work of supplying and fixing quarter-mile posts to the Barakar-Purulia and Chas-Gulbera roads were completed during the year. Demarcation of roadside land between Ormanjhi and Chotoopaloo, first section, Ranchi-Hazaribagh road, was started and nearly completed. Ranchi.

A steam road-roller (10 tons) was used in consolidating and re-sectioning eight miles of the Giridih-Dumri road. The roller was found very effective in consolidating trap metal.

The construction of a dâk bungalow at Bankura was started and good progress made towards the close of the year.

Additions to the dâk bungalow at Ranchi were started and nearly completed.

390. The foundation of culvert No. 56 on the Grand Trunk Road was exposed by the last heavy flood; its protection has been taken in hand. Sone Circle.

391. No work of importance was carried out in the South-Western Circle. South-Western Circle.

The work of cutting a drain along the 75th mile of the Raniganj road was completed.

392. Additions were made to the Contai road dâk bungalow, Midnapore district. An approach road with a culvert, a well and a wicket gate to the railway station compound were also made during the year. Midnapore.

An estimate for constructing an inspection bungalow with out-houses at Danton was sanctioned during the year, but the work could not be commenced for want of funds.

Miscellaneous Public Improvements.

Calcutta.

393. The management and maintenance of Dalhousie Square were taken over by Government from the Corporation of Calcutta and several improvements and modifications (such as new ghats, a stone balustrade, fountains, etc.) were carried out.

The Curzon Gardens were practically completed, and such gardening operations as still remained to be done were left to be carried out during the ensuing rainy season.

A scheme for laying unfiltered water pipes across the Calcutta Maidan with the necessary hydrants, etc., was sanctioned and put in hand. This will effect a much needed improvement in the system of watering the Maidan roads.

The bank of Tolly's Nala near the Voluntary Venereal Hospital at Alipore was protected from scour.

In honour of the visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales to Calcutta, Prinsep's Ghat and the route to Government House were decorated, and a pavilion was erected on the Calcutta Maidan for their public reception. Most of the important buildings in Calcutta were illuminated on the night of the 3rd January 1906.

Howrah.

394. A license for the supply of energy for electric traction was granted to the Calcutta Tramways Company, Limited, within the Municipality of Howrah.

Orissa.

395. The construction of a refuge-house and khalasi's quarters at Shortt's Island, commenced last year, was completed.

Murshidabad.

396. An estimate, amounting to Rs. 6,465, was sanctioned for revetting Murshidabad slope for the protection of the Nawab's Palace. The rebuilding of the stone ghat, materials for which had been collected in the previous year, was completed. Revetting of the stone boulders in front of the Palace was almost completed. Depressions and hollows were filled up. The slope was in good condition.

Jessore.

397. Protective works on the west bank of the Chitra river near Narail, in the district of Jessore, were in progress, with a view to stop the further erosion to the river bank which endangered the safety of the town.

Darbhanga.

398. As regards the construction of the agricultural buildings at Pusa, the progress of the work during the year was satisfactory. The principal building is Phipps' Laboratory, of which the plinth was finished.

An experimental room of the same length as the width of one of the rooms of the laboratory was constructed during the year, to enable the experts to test the lighting capacity of the laboratory.

Some of the residential buildings were completed, and good progress was made as regards the rest.

Satisfactory progress was made with the subsidiary buildings and quarters for menials.

The construction of roads and paths required for the several buildings was taken in hand, and those for six European quarters were completed during the year.

The work of protecting the Pusa Estate from floods was commenced towards the end of the year and some progress was made.

The remedial measures taken during the year to prevent the erosion of the right bank of the Gandak river opposite the main laboratory building proved successful.

24-Parganas.

399. Land was acquired for the extension of the Veterinary Institution, Belgatchia. The dissecting room of the Veterinary College was completed. The operating theatre was under construction, and materials were collected for constructing four isolation boxes and boundary walls.

Establishment.

400. Owing to the partition of Bengal the Engineer Cadre and the Upper Subordinate scale for this Province were reduced by 2 and 8, respectively. The officers, subordinates, clerks, etc., who were employed in, and attached to, the transferred districts were made over to the new Province.

All the Public works in the Sambalpur district, excepting those in the estates of Phuljhar and Chandarpur-Padampur, were transferred from the Central Provinces to this Government with effect from 16th October 1905 and were formed into a subdivision of the Akhayapada-Jajpur Division in the Orissa Circle.

The Imperial Civil works at Pusa in connection with the Agricultural College and Phipp's laboratory were formed into a separate division designated the Pusa Division and an Executive Engineer, 1st grade, was placed in charge of the same in May 1905.

Railways.

401. There are no Railways under the direct administration of the Bengal Government. Control.

A few small lines of local importance are subject to control in some measure by this Government.

The more important lines are subject to the control of the Railway Board.

402. During the year the open mileage was increased as follows:— Additions to mileage.

	Miles.
Standard gauge—	
Eastern Bengal State Railway—	
Ranaghat to Lalgola	94·75
Metre gauge—	
Tirhut State Railway—	
Bettiah to Bhikna Thoree	44·25
Bhagalpur Kacheri to Barari	3·50

With those additions the open mileage in the Province on the 1st April 1906 was as under—

	Miles.
Standard gauge	2,701
Metre gauge	908
2′ 6″ gauge	164
2′ 0″ gauge	108

403. The Bengal Central Railway was purchased by the State and merged into the Eastern Bengal State Railway System with effect from the 30th June 1905. Change in administration.

404. Work is in hand on the following lines:—

Bengal-Nagpur Railway.—A line from Purulia to Ranchi on the 2′ 6″ gauge (72·28 miles) was commenced in November 1905. Lines in progress.

East Indian Railway.—A line has been sanctioned and is about to be made from Hooghly to Barharwa passing along the right bank of the Bhagirathi river *viâ* Katwa and Azimganj (164·34 miles).

A line from Bhagalpur to Bausi (31 miles) is in progress.

Tirhut State Railway.—Work is proceeding on a line from Mansi to Baptiahi in the Bhagalpur district (60·37 miles) and on a line from Bairagnia to Bagaha on the Gandak river passing through the north of the Muzaffarpur and Champaran districts (84·65 miles).

Bengal and North-Western Railway.—Two small branches are in progress in the Saran district.

405. The Eastern Bengal State Railway has completed a survey for an extension of the Murshidabad branch from Lalgola to Gherria (13 miles). Surveys completed.

A survey was also completed by the staff of the Eastern Bengal State Railway on behalf and at the expense of the District Board of Nadia for a Light Railway from Krishnagar to Jellinghee (56 miles).

The Bengal and North-Western Railway has completed surveys from Pertabganj on the Tirhut State Railway to Birpore on the Kosi river (15 miles), and also from Dhang to Bairagnia, including the site for a bridge across the Bagmatti river (3 miles).

Surveys in progress.

406. In the following cases surveys were either in progress or have been authorized:—

By the Eastern Bengal State Railway.—From Kissenganj to Jalpaiguri *vid* Titalia (59 miles) and from Forbesganj to the Nepal frontier (6 miles).

By the Bengal and North-Western Railway—

	Miles.
Chapra to Meshrak	21
Muzaffarpur to Mohamedpur	140
Katra to Sitamarhi	
Darbhanga to Khagaria	
Samastipur to Shunkurpura	

By the Bengal-Nagpur Railway.—From the Gurmasini Hill in the Mohurbhanj State to Sini (52 miles) in connection with the proposal of Messrs. Tata & Sons for large iron works.

By Messrs. Martin & Co.—For an extension of the Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway from Basirhat to Hussanabad (8 miles), and for an extension of the Howrah-Amta Light Railway to Champadanga (8 miles).

Other projects.

407. Proposals were received from the District Boards of Darbhanga and Monghyr for the construction of Light Railways from Samastipur to Roserah and from Roserah to Khagaria. These are held in abeyance, as the Bengal and North-Western Railway have put forward proposals for lines which would serve the same tract of country.

Messrs. Martin & Co. made a proposal to connect the town of Contai with the Contai road station of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway by a Light Railway (30 miles). An enquiry was made as to the probable traffic. The result was unfavourable and the scheme has been dropped.

A proposal from Messrs. Möll, Schute & Co., Managing Agents, the Nilgiri Granite and Stone Company, Limited, for the construction of a tramway from Balasore railway station, Bengal-Nagpur Railway, to Nilgiri in the Nilgiri State, is under consideration.

The Commissioner of Orissa has suggested the construction of a light Railway from the Baitarani Road station on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway to Binjaipur *vid* Jajpur (24 miles). The Agent of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway has intimated that his Company may be prepared to take up the scheme after a few years.

Important matters dealt with.

408. The attention of the Railway Board was drawn to the subject of insecurity of female passengers while travelling on Indian Railways, and the Board invited the views of the Indian Railway Conference Association on the best means of securing the safety of female passengers.

At the instance of the Director of Agriculture the attention of the Railway Board was drawn to the high rate of freight charged by the Indian Railways for the conveyance of cattle.

The importance, as an administrative measure, of the line projected some years ago from Sambalpur to Khurda following the south bank of the Mahanadi river was brought to the notice of the Railway Board.

Railways controlled by the Government of Bengal.

409. The following Railways are to some measure under the control of this Government:—

	Miles.
(1) The Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway	51
(2) The Deoghur Railway	4·79
(3) The Tarkeswar-Mogra Railway	33·27
(4) The Howrah-Amta Railway	37·19
(5) The Howrah-Sheakhala Railway	19·75
(6) The Bhukhtiarpore-Bihar Railway	18·50
(7) The Barasat-Basirhat Railway	26·06
Total ...	190·56

The Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway continues to be a very profitable concern to its shareholders, and provincial revenues also benefit from a share in

profits which is received as a return for the upkeep of the road on which to a large extent the line is located.

The Light Railways are all working successfully, and giving a good return to the shareholders, and to the District Boards.

Canals.

[Administration Report of Irrigation Works for the year 1905-1906.]

410. The transactions of the Irrigation Department for the year 1905-1906 are exhibited in the following statements so far as they relate to works of Irrigation and Navigation:— Capital and Revenue outlay.

Capital Account.

Heads.	Amount of construction estimate.	Expenditure during 1905-1906.	Expenditure to end of 1905-1906.	Balance for expenditure from 1st April 1906.
Protective Irrigation Works.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Direct charges	56,13,464	4,70,983	20,38,848	35,74,616
Indirect „	1,31,055	13,178	52,576	78,479
Total ...	57,44,519	4,84,161	20,91,424	36,53,095
Major Irrigation Works.				
Direct charges	6,27,16,522	27,443	6,26,82,634	33,888
Indirect „	17,57,226	661	17,59,184	(—) 1,958
Total ...	6,44,73,748	28,104	6,44,41,818	31,930
Minor Works and Navigation.				
Direct charges	1,29,44,710	5,77,218	1,35,09,619	(—)5,64,909
Indirect „	2,60,137	3,943	2,65,559	(—) 5,422
Total ...	1,32,04,847	5,81,161	1,37,75,178*	(—)5,70,331

* The expenditure in excess of estimate represents the outlay on the Madaripur Bhil scheme and on the construction of a Suction Dredger. Estimates covering the outlay have been sanctioned since the close of the year.

Revenue Account.

Heads.	Receipts.	Working expenses.		Total working expenses.	Net Revenue.
		Direct charges.	Indirect charges.		
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Major Irrigation Works ...	21,33,846	10,12,930	81,161	10,94,091	10,39,755
Minor Works and Navigation.					
Works for which Capital and Revenue accounts are kept.	5,15,118	4,26,590	15,049	4,41,639	73,479
Works for which only Revenue accounts are kept.	1,06,339	1,25,564	6,270	1,31,834	(—)25,495
Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue accounts are kept.	(*a*) 22,409	(*b*)36,455	...	36,455	(—)14,046

(*a*) Exclusive of Rs. 1,200 on account of rent of buildings, Damodar project.
(*b*) Exclusive of Rs. 47,973 and Rs. 23,003 expended respectively during the year on improvement of navigable channels, Ganges river, and on experimental irrigation of sugarcane by pumping in Bihar.

ORISSA CIRCLE.

Major Irrigation Works.

Orissa Canals.

Capital Account.

411. The expenditure (direct charges) charged to the Capital account of the Orissa Canals during the year was Rs. 18,923. The total capital outlay for direct charges to the end of the year stands at Rs. 2,60,18,065.

During the year the following works were in progress:—

The Dudhai Canal has now been fully completed. Three Minor Distributaries from Range III of the High Level Canal were completed. The Barunpada Minor from No. 12 Distributary, Taldanda Canal, and a minor from 19 mile 446 feet of the Machgong Canal commenced last year were completed. The construction of an embankment to close a spill channel of the Brahmini river at Manpur for the protection of the Dudhai Canal was completed. A lattice girder bridge to carry the Jajpur Vyassarovar District Board road across the High Level Canal, Range II, was in progress. Land for the extension of No. 2A Distributary, Pattamundi Canal, was demarcated, and about six lakhs of earthwork done before the end of March. One hundred and forty-seven permanent outlets were constructed during the year.

Length of Canals, &c.

412. The lengths of canals and distributaries which were in operation during the year were—Orissa Canals—canals for irrigation and navigation, 204¾ miles; canals for irrigation only, 113 miles; distributaries and minor channels, 1,175¾ miles; 8½ miles of distributaries and minor distributaries being added during the year—Hijili Tidal Canal, 29 miles; Orissa Coast Canal, 129¾ miles.

Rainfall.

413. The average annual rainfall at the 13 recording stations on the Orissa Canals was 45·88 inches against 53·37 inches in the previous year.

Irrigation.

414. The area irrigated was 235,123 acres against 220,070 acres in the preceding year. There has been an increase of 17,078 acres in the *kharif* area. The area of *rabi* is 3,282 acres as compared with 7,707 acres in the previous year. The decrease is owing to the damage done to the *dalua* rice crop by an untimely flood in the Kharsua and Byturni rivers.

The cash realisations on account of water-rates amounted to Rs. 3,54,210 against the demand of Rs. 3,63,803. Rupees 7 were remitted, and the arrear balance at the close of the year was Rs. 9,586.

Navigation receipts.

415. The receipts from the navigation tolls on the Orissa Canals, including boats and rafts, were Rs. 75,880 against Rs. 68,345 in 1904-1905. The tonnage of boats was 323,692 against 325,256 in the preceding year, showing a slight decrease.

Financial results.

416. The revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the Orissa Canals during the year were Rs. 4,60,212 and Rs. 380,354, respectively, the result being a net revenue of Rs. 79,858 against Rs. 46,948 in the preceding year.

Hijili Tidal Canal.

417. There was no addition to the capital outlay during the year, which now stands at Rs. 25,51,641 (direct charges). The total receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 70,448 and Rs. 47,597, respectively, against Rs. 45,242 and Rs. 49,797, respectively, in the preceding year. The result was a net revenue of Rs. 22,851 against a deficit of Rs. 4,555 in the preceding year. The canal remained open to traffic throughout the year. The traffic increased considerably mainly owing to export of rice to Calcutta and adjacent markets. The navigation receipts were Rs. 68,917 against Rs. 44,063 in 1904-1905.

Minor Works and Navigation.

Orissa Coast Canal.

418. There was no outlay chargeable to the Capital account during the year. The total capital outlay (direct charges) to end of the year amounts to Rs. 43,72,462. Ranges III, IVA and IVB remained open to traffic throughout the year, while Range V was closed for silt clearance and repairs to the Chargachia and Charbatia locks from 1st January 1906 till after the expiry of the year. The number of boats and the tonnage increased during the year in spite of the closure of Range V, but the receipts were only Rs. 26,461

against Rs. 28,682 in the preceding year. The decrease is owing to the ton mileage having been less during the year. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 30,600 and Rs. 65,024, respectively, resulting in a deficit of Rs. 34,424 against a deficit of Rs. 19,163 in the preceding year.

419. There was no high flood in any of the principal rivers in this circle. Floods.

SOUTH-WESTERN CIRCLE.

Major Irrigation Works.

Midnapore Canal.

420. The outlay chargeable to Capital during the year amounted to Rs. 6,262, which was spent on permanent outlets. The total capital expenditure (direct charges) now stands at Rs. 83,03,838. Capital account.

421. The lengths of main canal, distributaries and village channels are— Main canal and branches, 69¾ miles; distributaries, 215·55 miles; village channels 29·95 miles; and drainage channels, 54·42 miles. The reduction in the lengths of canal and distributaries is due to the abandonment of 2¼ miles at the end of the branch canal (Distributary No. 1) and 51·24 miles of the distributaries in No. 4 Subdivision, which are no longer in use. Lengths of Canals, &c.

422. The highest flood in the river Cossye during the year was on 30th September 1905 when the gauge at Midnapore read 87·20, the highest on record on the 19th June 1898 being 93·30. Floods.

423. The total rainfall registered at Midnapore and Panchkura was as follows:— Rainfall.

Station.	1905-1906.	Average of ten previous year.
	Inches.	Inches.
Midnapore	67·15	58·05
Panchkura	59·95	55·34

Owing to the heavy and well-distributed rainfall there was little demand for irrigation throughout the season.

424. The area irrigated from the canal was 47,268 acres against 86,000 acres in the previous year. Irrigation.

The enhanced rate of Rs. 2 per acre, which was introduced for the first time during the year, led cultivators to hesitate in their applications for leases. The result was that only a few villages, with an area of 2,711 acres, came under lease during the year. There was no irrigation during the year of *boro* rice, which is classed as *rabi*.

Out of the total demand of Rs. 1,12,138, including arrears, Rs. 1,11,547 were actually realized, and Rs. 582 were remitted during the year, leaving a nominal arrear balance of Rs. 9 only.

425. The navigation receipts amounted to Rs. 79,043 against Rs. 61,138 in the previous year. The increase in grain traffic was mainly due to a good crop of paddy, and partly to the reduction of tolls on empty boats and to the abolition of the loading fee which has done away with the monopoly that the Government *koyals* had of the grain traffic of the canal. Navigation receipts.

The canal was open to traffic throughout the year.

426. The gross revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the canal amounted to Rs. 2,10,405 and Rs. 1,49,787, respectively, resulting in a net revenue of Rs. 60,618 against Rs. 69,143 in 1904-1905. Financial results.

Minor Works and Navigation.

Calcutta and Eastern Canals.

427. The outlay of the year chargeable to the Capital account (direct charges) was Rs. 5,76,279, the expenditure on works being Rs. 1,20,025, of which a sum of Rs. 99,671 was spent on the Madaripur bhil route and Rs. 18,526 on warehouses at Ultadanga. Under Tools and Plant Rs. 36,984 were expended during the year towards the completion of the new steam-launch *Albatross*, the total cost being Rs. 52,567 against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 52,000. Rupees 3,95,750 were expended in England during the year on account of the suction dredger. Capital Account.

Navigation receipts.

428. The receipts from navigation tolls amounted to Rs. 4,68,122 as compared with Rs. 5,12,571 in the preceding year. The Madaripur bhil route contributed Rs. 43,049 this year. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) amounted to Rs. 4,83,741 and Rs. 3,72,666, respectively. The net revenue was Rs. 1,11,075 against Rs. 2,01,743 in 1904-1905.

Nadia Rivers.

429. The approximate lengths of the channels comprised in the Nadia rivers remained the same as last year, viz.:—

	Miles.
Bhagirathi river	157½
Bhairab-Jalangi river	146
Mathabhanga river	137
Hooghly river	32
Total ...	472½

No capital account is kept. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 1,01,839 and Rs. 1,30,736, respectively. The net result was a deficit of Rs. 28,897 against a deficit of Rs. 40,831 in 1904-1905.

A sum of Rs. 47,973 was spent during the year on the improvement in the season of low water of the navigable channels of the Ganges river.

Gaighatta and Buxi Khal.

430. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect charges) for the year 1905-1906 were Rs. 4,500 and Rs. 1,098, respectively, against Rs. 5,431 and Rs. 9,236, respectively, in the previous year. The khal was farmed out for five years from 1901-1902 at Rs. 4,500 per year.

Eden Canal.

431. The receipts and working expenses were Rs. 22,089 and Rs. 34,222, respectively, against Rs. 24,452 and Rs. 31,594 in the year 1904-1905. The area irrigated during the year was 24,365 acres against 26,372 acres in the preceding year.

The decrease in area, as compared with the previous year, is due partially to some of the long leases having lapsed and not being renewed during the year on account of adequate rainfall during the early part of the *kharif* season and also to the uncertainty of the supply from the head sluice at Joojooty during drought.

432. The drainage works carried out under the provisions of the Drainage Act, VI (B.C.) of 1880, or otherwise, and the works done on embankments are discussed in the Embankment and Drainage Report.

SONE CIRCLE.

Major Irrigation Works.

Sone Canals.

Capital Account.

433. The outlay (direct charges) charged to the Capital account of the Sone Canals during the year was Rs. 2,258. The total capital outlay (direct charges) up to the end of 1905-1906 was Rs. 2,58,09,090.

Lengths of Canals, etc.

434. The lengths of canals and distributaries in operation at the close of the year remain the same as previously reported, viz., 1,581½ miles, as detailed below:—

	Canal System.			Total.
	Eastern Sone.	Arrah.	Buxar.	
	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
Canals for irrigation and navigation ...	86¼	74½	57¾	218½
Canals for irrigation only	...	71¼	77½	148¾
Distributaries	338	470¼	409	1,217¼

Rainfall.

435. The average rainfall registered at 12 stations was 46·02 inches as compared with an average of 50·42 inches in the previous year. There was

light rain in April, May and June, and heavy rain in July, August and September, favouring the transplantation of the rice crop. In October, November and December hardly any rain fell; in January, February and March the rainfall was above the average and favourable.

436. The areas irrigated during the year under review and the previous year are shown below:— Irrigation.

Year.	Kharif.	Rabi.	Hot weather.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1904-1905 ...	368,742	93,054	30,469	492,265
1905-1906 ...	369,285	101,809	31,723	502,817

The area irrigated under long lease at the end of the year under report was 384,069 acres against 371,964 acres at the end of the last year. The area lapsed on the 31st March 1905 was 10,851 acres, which have been almost all renewed. The desire to obtain long leases notwithstanding the increase of rates is maintained, and there has been a considerable and satisfactory addition to the area during the year, mainly in the Eastern Sone and Buxar Divisions. The area of *rabi* is an average one, but was rather larger in the present year owing to there being little or no rain from October to December. The shortness of the hot-weather rain caused a slight increase in the irrigation of that season. The cash realizations on account of water-rates amounted to Rs. 13,03,342 against the demand of Rs. 13,04,795. The remission of the year amounted to Rs. 1,453, no arrear balance being left at the end of the year.

437. The navigation receipts during the year were Rs. 33,926 against Rs. 24,072 in the previous year. Navigation receipts.

438. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 13,92,781 and Rs. 5,16,353, respectively, against Rs. 14,02,462 and Rs. 5,34,841 in the preceding year. Financial results.

Under Major Works—Working Expenses—Extensions and Improvements the principal works carried out were (1) a feeder-outlet in the Dumraon Branch Canal; (2) a culvert at 6th mile of the Amra Distributary; (3) a rest-shed at Ranitalao; (4) a syphon under Mally Distributary; (5) a large number of permanent outlets, viz., on the Mally and Khojasa Distributaries and the Chausa and Gurrah-Chowbay Branch Canals and their distributaries; (6) the conversion of toll-collector's house at Daudnagar into zilladar's quarters; and (7) construction of a sectional officer's head-quarters at Nawanagar.

The maintenance charges were mainly for repairs of an ordinary character. There was, however, heavy expenditure in renewal of gates for Mahabalipore, Nawbatpore and Digha Locks on the Patna Canal, and for Subari and Dunwar Locks on the Arrah Canal.

439. The Main Western Canal below 12th mile, including the distributaries taking off therefrom, were closed during the hot weather. Closure of Canals.

440. The only noteworthy feature of the year was the high flood in the rivers in the Shahabad and Gaya districts, due to the heavy rainfall in the Kymore Range of hills which breached the Moghulserai-Gaya Railway in both districts and interrupted the traffic. In the canal tracts the rainfall was generally seasonable and a full average outturn of crops was obtained. General.

GANDAK CIRCLE.

441. The head-quarters of the Champaran Division were removed from Ramnagar to Motihari with effect from 1st June 1905. Administrative changes.

The charge of the Ekdari section which comprises the Madhuban (Teur) Canal and its distributaries and the opium buildings was transferred from the Motihari to the Dhaka subdivision of the Champaran Division in November 1905.

442. The expenditure (direct charges) on the Tribeni Canal during the year was Rs. 4,17,605; on the Dhaka Canal the expenditure was Rs. 53,378. Tribeni and Dhaka Canals.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

The progress made with the works up to date is as follows:—

Tribeni Canal.

Of 23 large works, viz., 5 syphons under rivers and 18 aqueducts, one syphon has been practically completed and two others commenced; three aqueducts have been practically completed and another commenced, and foundations partially excavated of six others.

The foundation and about a quarter of the superstructure of the head sluice has been completed.

Of smaller works, viz., 12 bridges and 6 syphons for local drainage, 2 bridges have been nearly completed and 2 others commenced.

Bricks for the majority of the other works have been manufactured.

The excavation of the canal for about 40 out of the 60 miles has been nearly completed.

It was anticipated that water would be admitted into the first 25 miles of the canal this year; but owing to the slow progress made by the contractors, this will not be possible.

The surveys for the distributaries in the first 30 miles of the canal have been completed and the centre lines pegged out.

The subdivisional residence, office and clerks' quarters at Ramnagar have been completed; also the inspection bungalow in 27th mile and that in 16th mile, about half built.

Dhaka Canal.

During the year some extra bridges and drainage culverts were built on the branch canals and the remaining works on the distributaries completed.

Repairs to the damage done to the weir at the head of the canal on the Lalbukeya river during last flood season and the fitting of shutters on the weir were taken in hand and will be completed before the next flood season.

After the flood season, water was let into the canal by constructing an earthen bund in the river above the weir and some indigo and sugarcane was irrigated in March.

Minor Works and Navigation.

Works for which Capital and Revenue Accounts are kept.

Saran Canals.

443. These canals have remained closed. An enquiry is being made to ascertain if it is practicable to do something at a reasonable cost which might make them more useful.

Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue Accounts are kept.

Madhubani Canal.

444. The only work of this class is Madhuban (Teur) Canal which is 6 miles 10·6 chains in length, with one distributary 6·30 miles long. The canal was maintained in fair order at a cost of Rs. 2,233 against Rs. 11,654 of the previous year.

The total area irrigated during the year was 519 acres against 4,095 acres of the previous year. This was the first year in which a water-rate has been charged. Owing to sufficient rain during the *kharif* season there was no demand for irrigation, but 551 acres were leased in the *rabi* season.

Sugarcane irrigation by pumping at Otter.

445. The sugarcane irrigation experiment by pumping at Otter, which had been resumed at end of the preceding year, was continued till 13th June 1905, when good rain fell and the operation closed.

The pumping installation consisted of a 16-H.-P. portable engine and a 14″ centrifugal pump.

The sugarcane did not require irrigation before middle of April. After that date 270 acres were irrigated, as per details given below :—

Area irrigated—	Acres.
1st watering	270
2nd „	242
3rd „	97
4th „	26
5th „	9
6th „	6

The cost of working the engine and pump was Rs. 3·1 per acre irrigated, taking each watering separately, or Rs. 7·7, taking the net area irrigated. This is exclusive of any charge for interest on outlay or for depreciation of the pumping plant.

Embankments and Drainage.

[The Embankments and Drainage Reports for the year 1905-1906.]

446. The expenditure incurred (exclusive of book charge for establishment and tools and plant) during the year on embankments and drainage works in Bengal was Rs. 6,82,520. The total length of embankments maintained during the year was 2,141 miles protecting an area of 8,649,738 acres. General.

447. In the Orissa Circle investigations were made into the existing village irrigation system in the district of Puri, while the possibilities of further irrigation from the Salia river were under investigation. Investigations in regard to the question of the maintenance of the channels of approach to and discharge from all the sluices in the embankments were completed. In the Gandak Circle surveys in connection with a proposal for a sluice and channel from the Bya river were carried out. In the South-Western Circle surveys were made of the Schedule D embankments with the object of establishing a record of the formation level of the crests of those embankments. Surveys were also made of the villages exposed to inundation by the removal of the Laltakuri marginal embankment in the Murshidabad district. Surveys and investigations.

448. The outlay of the year (without charges for establishment and tools and plant) under this head amounts to Rs. 64,473 over the different classes of embankments. Original works.

In the Orissa Circle the two escapes on the Kushbhadra river were completed at a total cost of Rs. 13,470, the expenditure of the year being Rs. 11,680. The stone paving at the head of Tantighai on the right bank of the river Khursuah was in progress at the end of the year. The construction of a permanent escape at Achootpore in the 5th mile, Bhargovi left embankment, was completed during the year, the total cost being Rs. 22,250.

In the South-Western Circle an expenditure of Rs. 29,160 was incurred on raising the embankment on the left bank of the Hooghly. The work was nearly completed at the close of the year. A sum of Rs. 15,638 was expended on the embankments along the Nadia rivers, principally on the strengthening of the Bhagwangola retired line.

In the Gandak Circle the construction of the drainage sluice in the 6th mile of the Bazitpur embankment referred to in last year's report was completed, except the outfall and the approach channels.

449. The expenditure on repairs (without book charges for establishment and tools and plant) aggregated Rs. 3,32,049. Ordinary repairs.

The expenditure on repairs to the Orissa embankments was Rs. 33,810, against Rs. 26,689 in the previous year. The total cost of repairs to the Schedule D embankments (class B) in the Midnapore district which are in the Orissa Circle was Rs. 29,012, of which Rs. 3,452 were expended on retired lines of embankments, Rs. 5,028 on making a diversion out of the Raniakhal at the 20th mile of the sea-dyke.

450. In the Orissa Circle only two small breaches occurred in the Bhargovi left embankment. Breaches.

In the South-Western Circle 15 breaches occurred in the Schedule D embankments and three in the takavi embankments. The total expenditure incurred in closing breaches and in making good damage caused by flood was Rs. 34,443, against Rs. 32,693 in the previous year. There were no breaches in the embankments in the Gandak and Northern Circles.

451. In the Orissa Circle the total outlay incurred on repairs to the revetment and river protective works was Rs. 4,883, against Rs. 675 in the preceding year. The expenditure on river protective works in the Gandak Circle amounted to Rs. 4,110, against Rs. 6,482 of the year before. River protective works.

452. The actual outlay during the year on the Orissa embankments (class A) maintained as agricultural works, exclusive of charges for establishment and tools and plant, was Rs. 33,810, against Rs. 26,689 in the previous year, Financial.

the average rate per mile being Rs. 65. The expenditure on class B Government embankments was Rs. 2,14,566, against Rs. 2,36,572 in the previous year, the average rate being Rs. 199, against Rs. 217 in 1904-1905.

Works undertaken under the provisions of the Drainage Act, VI (B.C.) of 1880.

453. The Dankuni, Howrah, Rajapur and Burajalla drainage works in the Hooghly district in charge of the Executive Engineer, Northern Drainage and Embankment Division, were maintained in good order during the year. The cost of their maintenance compared with the previous year was Rs. 14,182 against Rs. 12,018.

Works undertaken under the provisions of the Sanitary Drainage Act, VIII (B.C.) of 1895.

454. The only work taken up under the Sanitary Drainage Act is the Magra Hât drainage scheme in the 24-Parganas district. It is designed to drain the swamps around Magra Hât in the central portion of the tracts enclosed by the 24-Parganas embankments. The swamps are mainly those along the Kaorapukhar khal, near Hatar, those connected with the Surjipur sluice, those at Joynagar and along the Srichandra and Sangrampur khals, as well as north of the railway near Sangrampur and at Dhosa and Habka. The rough estimates amounting to Rs. 17,39,000 have been approved by the Municipal Department of this Government. The work being very urgently required has been put in hand in anticipation of the sanction of the Secretary of State, which has been applied for.

During the year under review Rs. 1,68,775 were spent on work and Rs. 12,479 on the acquisition of land.

Drainage Works carried out under the provisions of the Embankment Act, II (B.C.) of 1892.

455. In the South-Western Circle, the embankment on the left bank of the Peali river with two sluices was completed during the year at a total cost of Rs. 71,979, the expenditure of the year being Rs. 6,596. Work was in progress during the year on the construction of a sluice at Dhutkhali in the 108th mile of the 24-Parganas embankment. A scheme was prepared for improving the drainage of the Arapanch basin in the 24-Parganas, which involved a new length of embankment and a new sluice. The matter is still under consideration. In the meantime the outfall channel leading from the existing sluice in the embankment has been cleared which will give relief for some years. In the Orissa Circle the silt-clearance of the Kunjapur and other khals was completed during the year at a total cost of Rs. 19,432, the expenditure of the year being Rs. 3,872. A project for the drainage of the lands within the Argoal circuit embankment was commenced during the year, and a sum of Rs. 14,669 was expended. The construction of the sluices in the 15th mile of the Kalinagar Hassia embankment and in the 12th mile of the Jalpai embankment was completed.

Maintenance and repairs.

456. The Charrial khal drainage scheme was maintained in good condition during the year at a cost of Rs. 2,492, against Rs. 854 in the previous year. With a few exceptions, all the sluices in the Schedule D embankment, 24-Parganas district, were efficiently maintained during the year at a total cost of Rs. 1,634. The Kumrool sluice and channel in the 53rd mile of the Damodar left embankment were repaired and maintained during the year at a cost of Rs. 377.

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

Gross Revenue.

457. The following statement shows the gross revenue (*i.e.*, the total of Imperial, Provincial and Local Revenues) for 1905-1906 as compared with that for 1904-1905 :—

(The figures are in thousands.)

Receipts.	1904-05.				1905-06.			
	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Principal Heads of Revenue—								
I.—Land Revenue	2,55,01	1,56,45	...	4,11,46	1,50,30	1,81,42	...	3,31,72
II.—Opium	7,70,14	.....	...	7,70,14	7,13,61	.....	...	7,13,61
III.—Salt	2,23,62	.....	...	2,23,62	1,62,84	.....	...	1,62,84
IV.—Stamps	1,04,30	1,04,30	...	2,08,60	91,86	91,86	...	1,83,72
V.—Excise	94,44	73,46	...	1,67,90	94,76	73,70	...	1,68,46
VI.—Provincial Rates	.....	52,04	54,05	1,07,09	.....	44,35	46,09	90,44
VII.—Customs	1,97,71	.....	...	1,97,71	2,05,78	.....	...	2,05,78
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	37,75	12,58	...	50,33	38,26	12,57	...	50,83
IX.—Forests	8,76	2,93	...	11,68	8,39	2,80	...	11,19
X.—Registration	.....	16,90	...	16,90	.....	14,51	...	14,51
XI.—Tributes	.....	.....	...	.....	21	.....	...	21
Total ...	16,91,73	4,18,65	54,05	21,64,43	14,66,01	4,21,21	46,09	19,33,31
XII.—Interest	13,91	2,86	44	17,21	13,59	2,61	38	16,58
XIII.—Post Office	.....	.....	12	12	.....	.....	8	8
Receipts by Civil Department—								
XVI.—Law and Justice—								
Courts of Law	.....	7,98	...	7,98	.....	6,98	...	6,98
Jails	.....	13,87	...	13,87	.....	12,87	...	12,87
XVII.—Police	.....	1,86	10,46	12,32	.....	1,34	9,05	10,39
XVIII.—Marine	.....	15,20	...	15,20	.....	15,19	...	15,19
XIX.—Education	.....	7,28	76	8,04	.....	6,59	64	7,23
XX.—Medical	.....	2,53	56	3,09	.....	4,57	45	5,02
XXI.—Scientific and other Minor Departments.	.....	2,75	26	3,01	.....	2,72	25	2,97
Total ...	.....	51,47	12,04	63,51	.....	50,26	10,39	60,65
Miscellaneous—								
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation.	1,89	67	...	2,56	1,76	91	...	2,67
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing	61	1,46	2	2,09	.....	1,32	1	1,33
XXV.—Miscellaneous	1,02	7,91	2,17	11,10	50	5,41	2,11	8,02
Total ...	3,52	10,04	2,19	15,75	2,26	7,64	2,12	12,02
Irrigation—								
XXIX.—Major Works (direct receipts).	.....	20,46	...	20,46	.....	21,39	...	21,39
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation—								
By Public Works Department.	.....	7,01	...	7,01	.....	6,68	...	6,68
By Civil Department.	.....	1,43	20	1,63	.....	1,22	10	1,32
Total ...	.....	28,90	20	29,10	.....	29,29	10	29,39
Buildings and Roads—								
XXXI.—Military Works	2	.....	...	2	2	.....	...	2
XXXII.—Civil Works—								
By Public Works Department.	22	3,89	...	4,11	20	2,26	...	2,46
By Civil Department ...	.....	2,49	6,59	9,08	.....	2,18	5,80	7,98
Total ...	24	6,38	6,59	13,21	22	4,44	5,80	10,46
Contributions ...	.....	69	14,53	15,27	.....	50	28,42	28,92
Grand Total ...	17,09,40	5,18,99	90,16	23,18,55	14,82,08	5,15,59	93,38	20,91,41

The chief variations are explained in the sections on Imperial and Provincial Finance.

Imperial Revenue and Finance.

458. The following statement shows Imperial Receipts in 1905-1906, as compared with those of 1904-1905:—

Major heads.	1904-1905.		1905-1906.		Difference between columns (2) and (4).	
	For Bengal as after partition. (For 12 months.)	For districts transferred on partition. (For 12 months.)	For Bengal as after partition. (For 12 months.)	For districts transferred on partition. (For first 6½ months.)	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Land Revenue	1,64,63,000	90,38,000	1,21,31,409	28,98,854	.....	43,31,591
II.—Opium	7,68,91,000	1,23,000	7,12,93,299	67,732	.....	55,97,769
III.—Salt	2,03,08,000	20,54,000	1,53,35,361	9,46,040	.....	49,69,639
IV.—Stamps	67,52,000	36,78,000	71,60,123	20,25,816	4,08,123	.....
V.—Excise	79,14,000	15,30,000	85,32,793	8,93,170	6,68,793	.....
VII.—Customs	1,96,00,000	1,71,000	2,05,29,980	48,486	9,29,980	.....
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	32,66,000	5,09,000	35,36,474	2,89,736	2,70,474	.....
IX.—Forest	6,61,000	2,15,000	7,44,407	94,500	83,407	.....
XI.—Tributes	.....	.....	29,550	.....	29,550	.....
XII.—Interest	13,85,000	6,000	13,58,760	84	.....	26,240
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation ...	1,66,000	23,000	1,65,124	10,711	.....	876
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing...	59,000	2,000	.....	.....	.....	59,000
XXV.—Miscellaneous	98,000	4,000	48,684	1,858	.....	49,316
Total ...	15,35,63,000	1,73,53,000	14,09,09,964	72,76,987	23,81,327	1,50,34,363

The several increases and decreases shown in the above table are accounted for mainly by the causes given below:—*Stamps*—The increase is attributed to the increased number and value of Civil suits and rent suits as also to heavy probate duties paid in Calcutta; *Excise*—Favourable settlements owing to competition among bidders and to increase duties on drugs; *Customs*—Increase in import duty chiefly under spirits and liqueurs, sugar (ordinary duty) and cotton manufactures; and export duty on rice taken to Japan where there had been a failure of crop; *Assessed Taxes*—Careful assessment and increase in the number of assesses; *Forest*—Larger receipts from timber and other produce removed from the forests by consumers or purchasers; *Tributes*—Realizations from Native States in Sambalpur transferred to Bengal from the 16th October 1905; *Land Revenue*—The actuals of 1904-1905 included special grants of Rs. 2,05,000 to Provincial by deduction of the Imperial share, while those of 1905-1906 contain debits of 38 lakhs for Primary education, Police Reforms, Agricultural development and grants to District Boards as well as of Rs. 7,56,000 for net surplus of the Eastern districts transferred to the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam and of Rs. 91,000 for excess of Provincial expenditure on receipts on account of Sambalpur transferred to Bengal from the 16th October 1905; *Opium*—Sale at a lower average price; *Salt*—Reduction in the rate of duty from Rs. 2 to Re. 1-8 per maund; *Interest*—Reduction in the outstanding balances of loans; *Stationery and Printing*—Transfer of receipts of the Stationery Office at the Presidency from the Bengal to the India books with effect from the 1st July 1904; *Miscellaneous*—Smaller receipts on account of percentage chargeable on European stores and a special adjustment in 1904-1905 of Rs. 32,000 under recoveries of Famine expenditure.

459. The following statement shows Imperial expenditure in 1905-1906 as compared with 1904-1905:—

Major heads.	1904-1905.		1905-1906.		Difference between columns (2) and (4).	
	For Bengal as after partition. (For 12 months.)	For districts transferred on partition. (For 12 months.)	For Bengal as after partition. (For 12 months.)	For districts transferred on partition. (For first 6½ months.)	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1.—Refunds and Drawbacks	6,82,000	30,000	6,28,604	21,083	.....	53,396
2.—Assignments and Compensation	52,000	54,000	1,58,634	29,713	1,06,634	.....
3.—Land Revenue	5,89,000	3,63,000	11,83,000	1,67,000	5,94,000	.....
4.—Opium	2,94,31,000	1,000	2,83,15,937	983	.....	11,15,063
5.—Salt	2,91,000	19,000	2,99,332	(10,407	8,332	.....
6.—Stamps	2,10,000	1,36,000	2,19,273	38,360	9,273	.....
7.—Excise	3,84,000	77,000	3,87,983	42,273	3,983	.....
9.—Customs	9,64,000	39,000	9,97,098	16,941	33,098	.....
10.—Assessed Taxes	97,000	20,000	1,07,927	8,177	10,927	.....
11.—Forest	3,71,000	1,39,000	3,87,382	57,750	10,382	.....
14.—Interest on other obligations...	92,000	1,000	12,741	.....	.....	79,259
18.—General Administration	2,92,000	.....	2,87,617	.....	.....	4,383
23.—Ecclesiastical	2,08,000	5,000	2,17,999	3,979	9,999	.....
25.—Political	59,000	.....	82,645	227	23,645	.....
26.—Scientific and other Minor Department ...	25,000	.....	19,487	.....	.....	5,513
27.—Territorial and Political Pensions	9,91,000	3,000	8,97,123	251	.....	93,877
28.—Civil Furlough	.....	.....	858	.....	858	.....
29.—Superannuation	46,000	.....	45,086	.....	.....	914
30.—Stationery and Printing	5,93,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,93,000
32.—Miscellaneous	18,000	18,000	40,278	5,000	22,278	.....
45.—Civil Works	38,000	36,000	5,000	.....	.....	33,000
Total ...	3,54,39,000	9,41,000	3,42,94,004	4,02,144	8,33,409	19,78,405

The principal increases and decreases are explained mainly by the causes noted below:—*Assignments and Compensations*—Change in the classification of the minor heads in accordance with the corresponding heads of Revenue with effect from the 1st April 1905; *Land Revenue*—For increased Survey charges in Chota Nagpur and Settlement charges in Bihar; *Customs*—Increase under Preventive Establishment and larger expenditure on the purchase and repair of preventive service boats; *Assessed Taxes*—Appointment of a Deputy Collector and Examiner of Marwari accounts and increased horse allowance to the Assessors in Calcutta; *Forests*—Larger payments under establishment; *Ecclesiastical*—Increase under pay of senior Chaplains of the Church of England; *Political*—Special adjustment on account of the pay of the Political Officer, Sikkim, and that of the Assistant Political Officer, Chumbi Valley; *Refunds and Drawbacks*—Smaller refunds of Salt duty; *Opium*—Smaller payments to cultivators owing to smaller outturn; *Interest on other obligations*—Transfer of the charge on account of interest on deposits in State Railway Provident Institutions to the Public Works books; *Territorial and Political pensions*—Death of Nawab Shamsi Jehan Begum of the Nazamut Family. *Stationery and Printing*—Transfer of charges for purchase of stationery for Central Stores and of the Stationery branch of the Stationery Office at the Presidency to the India books from the 1st July 1904; *Civil Works*—There were special payments in 1904-1905 on account of contribution to the Calcutta Corporation for paving with asphalt the Strand Road in front of the Assay Office, Calcutta, and arrear contribution for the years 1902-1903 to 1904-1905 towards the improvement of the official and commercial centres of Calcutta.

Land Revenue.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for 1905-06.]

460. During the year under report there were 111,506 estates in class I (permanently-settled estates), 9,910 in class II (temporarily-settled estates) and 1,844 in class III (estates held direct by Government) as against 110,755, 8,876 and 1,857, respectively, in the preceding year, showing an increase of 1,772 in the total number of estates. **Classification of estates.**

461. The total current demand amounted to Rs. 2,85,84,038 (including Sambalpur) as against Rs. 2,83,36,642 in the preceding year. There was an increase in the demands of all the three classes as compared with the preceding year. The small increase in class I does not call for any special notice. In the other two classes the increase (excluding the addition of Rs. 1,80,109 in class II on account of Sambalpur) was chiefly due to settlements of new estates, resettlements and progressive increase of revenue. The arrear demand was Rs. 8,25,757 as against Rs. 7,73,268 in the previous year. The difference between the former and the outstanding balance of Rs. 8,00,189 for the previous year is due to settlements and resettlements with retrospective effect and to the adjustment of accounts. **Demand.**

462. The current collections were Rs. 2,79,97,689 as against Rs. 2,76,16,776 in the preceding year, and the percentage of collections on the current demand rose from 97·46 to 97·95. The percentage of arrear collections showed, however, a slight falling off, being 79·79 as against 80·25 in the previous year. The total collections, current and arrear, amounting to Rs. 2,86,56,581, were 97·44 per cent. of the total and 100·25 per cent. of the current demand as against 97·00 and 99·65 per cent., respectively, in the previous year. The total collections and remissions together amounted to Rs. 2,87,08,432, or 97·61 per cent. of the total demand, the corresponding percentage in the previous year being 97·25. **Collection.**

Canal Revenue.

See under Chapter IV.—"Canals."

Sources of Revenue other than Land.

CUSTOMS.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for the official year 1905-1906; Financial and Commercia Statistics of British India, Section XXXIII, Merchandise Marks.]

Revenue from Customs.

463. The marginal statement shows the gross and net Customs duty, inclusive of the duty on imported salt, realized in the Presidency of Bengal in each of the past three years.

	1903-1904.	1904-1905.	1905-1906.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Import duty (excluding duty on salt)	1,54,13,083	1,73,03 918	1,79,11,029
Import duty on salt	2,14,95,083	2,20,58,314	1,68,53,376
Export duty	18,59,644	21,83,060	24,30,737
Total gross duty ...	3,83,67,810	4,15,45,292	3,71,95,142
REFUND AND DRAWBACKS—			
Imports	6,01,349	4,43,061	3,73,099
Exports	75,398	78,433	1,11,799
Total ...	6,76,747	5,21,494	4,84,898
Total net duty ...	3,76,91,063	4,10,23,798	3,67,10,244

High as was the aggregate total value of the previous year's trade of the Presidency of Bengal, it has been surpassed in the year under review by 7·4 per cent., and a fresh record has been established. The trade has been larger both in the foreign and in the coasting trade; in the former the rise was 5·5 per cent. and in the latter 19·8 per cent. In the foreign trade imports of *gold* and *silver* and exports of foreign merchandise and *silver* contracted in value, but all else expanded considerably. In the coasting trade the fluctuations were on a smaller scale; there was a falling off in imports of foreign merchandise and *gold*, but all descriptions of exports were larger. In the foreign trade, Calcutta absorbed 97·2 per cent. of the total value; Chittagong 2·5 per cent., and the remaining ports ·3 per cent. Calcutta appropriated 90·3 per cent. of the total coasting trade; Chittagong 6·7 per cent.; and Narayanganj and the Orissa ports 3 per cent. Combining both the foreign and the coasting trade, the appropriation by Calcutta of the total aggregate trade was 96·18 per cent.; Chittagong 3·15 per cent.; Balasore ·43; Cuttack ·18; Puri ·02; and Narayanganj ·04 per cent.

Income of the Customs House, Calcutta.

464. The net income of the Custom House amounted to Rs. 3,43,96,772 against Rs. 3,83,59,566, representing a decrease of Rs. 39,62,794, equivalent to 10·3 per cent. If, however, Rs. 18,66,131 paid into the District Treasuries on account of *salt* transferred from bond at Calcutta to the Inland Bonded Warehouses be added to this, the net income becomes Rs. 3,62,62,903 as compared with Rs. 4,09,48,594 representing a decrease of 11·4 per cent. It may be noted that "deposits" which are actually a suspense account have not been shewn in either side of the account, although they amount to Rs. 1,13,618 on the receipt side and Rs. 1,34,372 on the payment side.

Receipts and disbursements at the subordinate ports in Bengal.

465. Deducting the total disbursements of Rs. 81,238 from the aggregate of Rs. 19,00,504 collected at the subordinate ports, the net income was Rs. 18,19,266, which is less by Rs. 3,63,809, or by 16·8 per cent., than that of the previous year.

Cases adjudged under the Sea Customs Act.

466. These cases numbered 297 in the past year, as compared with 285 in the previous year. The extra duty realised amounted to Rs. 7,651-14-3, as against Rs. 23,819-5 in 1904-1905, but in the previous year there were special recoveries of duty in three heavy cases of undervaluations of sugar, cigarettes and piece-goods. As against this decrease in the duty realised, there was a rise in penalties from Rs. 11,784 to Rs. 27,092-4-8, but this, as explained below, is accounted for by cases connected with exports into which no question of duty entered. Of the total cases mentioned, 280 represent misdeclarations and undervaluations of imports detected by the Appraising staff. Most of the offences were ultimately penalised under clause 37 of section 167 and were mainly due to inaccuracies on the part of importers in the preparation of their bills of entry. Under section 32 of the Act, 148 notices were issued during the year, as compared with 83 notices in the preceding year, but 129 out of the 148 notices issued related to *cotton piece-goods*, as against 22 relating to this article in the previous year. The cotton goods affected by these notices were originally valued at Rs. 13,77,578 and were raised in value to Rs. 14,82,728, the difference

being Rs. 1,05,150, or 7·63 per cent., resulting in increased duty to the amount of Rs. 3,571, with penalties aggregating Rs. 2,476. Two consignments of other goods, the one being *fancy goods* from China, and the other *peppermint crystals*, were also taken over and resulted in a net profit on the former of Rs. 223, the latter being as yet unadjusted. Under exports there were 17 cases including four of attempts to smuggle *opium* or *chundoo*, and five of attempts to smuggle the *skins or feathers of wild birds*. In two of the latter cases it was found that the smuggling had been systematically conducted for a long period, and penalties aggregating Rs. 20,050 were imposed. At present these have been reduced in one case by Rs. 800 in appeal. There is reason to believe that the smuggling of opium from Calcutta to Burma is also systematically carried on, but under the Sea Customs Act it is difficult to bring the offences home to the real offenders and the fines imposed are apt to be evaded.

Appeals.

467. There were ten appeals against the orders of the Collector in the past year under the Sea Customs Act, but none under the Merchandise Marks Act or the Tariff Act. Of the ten appeals, six appertained to transactions of the previous year; of these three were upheld and three were set aside. Of the four appeals originating in the year under review, the orders of the Collector were sustained in each instance. No appeals were pending at the close of the year.

Miscellaneous matters.

468. There was an increase of 8,186 in the number of customs documents dealt with in 1905-06 as compared with the previous year. Import bills of entry rose from 122,187 to 127,631, export shipping bills increased from 96,617 to 99,359 and warehousing and clearance passes for bonded goods and salt from 15,386 to 15,927. The amount of stamp duty levied increased from Rs. 23,051-10 to Rs. 23,535-6.

Working of the Merchandise Marks Act.

469 The only change of importance in this Act in the past year was the order issued by the Government of India in the Department of Commerce and Industry that yarns imported into India should no longer be tested at the port of importation.

Cases under this Act were not so numerous as in the previous year, falling from 493 to 291 or by 41 per cent. The decrease is partly due to the number of cases detected in the previous year of improper marking of glass chimneys. Penalties were imposed in 60 cases with the result that the marking is now correct, and 3 cases only have been detected since. Similarly, in the previous year, there were 26 cases in which foreign-made goods were penalized for bearing portraits of the English Royal Family without a counter-indication, with the consequence that only 3 cases have occurred in the year under report.

OPIUM.

[Report on the Administration of the Opium Department from 1st November 1904 to 31st October 1905; Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Section IV, Opium)

Settlements.

470. In the Bihar Agency, 340,149 bighas were settled, as compared with 344,730 in the previous year, showing a further decrease of 4,581 bighas in the year under report, due in a great measure to the relinquishment of unproductive lands. Except in the Sub-Agencies of Gaya, Tehta and Monghyr (where the increase over the previous year was 161, 2,890 and 433 bighas, respectively), there has been a general decrease in the remaining eight Sub-Agencies, the most noticeable being in those of Motihari (2,593 bighas) and Bettiah (3,402 bighas). In the Benares Agency, the area engaged for amounted to 611,527 bighas, as against 693,033 bighas in 1903-04, showing a decrease of 81,506 bighas. The settlements of 1903 were exceptional, and the figures for 1904 represent a return to somewhat normal conditions, the decrease being to some extent the result of the exclusion of everything in the shape of nominal cultivation.

Measurements and Actual cultivation.

471. Although there was a further decrease of 4,581 bighas in the settlements in the Bihar Agency, the total cultivation of 333,068 bighas by actual measurements shows an increase of 1,060 bighas over the measurements of 1903-1904. The cultivation over an area of 8,040 bighas, as against 10,551 in the preceding year, is reported to have failed owing to climatic causes, while the non-fulfilment of engagements accounts for the decrease of 1,992 bighas in the total aeea settled. In the Benares Agency, the measurements gave an

area of 623,132 bighas (including 16,794 bighas on which the crop failed, owing to climatic causes), or 11,605 bighas in excess of the area engaged for. The area wilfully left unsown in this Agency was only 644 bighas, or a little over ·1 per cent. of the area engaged for, as against 4,981 bighas in 1903-1904.

Weather and general results.

472. The year was an abnormal one in the Bihar Agency, and the conditions varied greatly from district to district. Owing to the *Hathiya* rain in October, there was ample moisture for early sowings, and the seed germinated well. But in the middle of November occurred a sharp shower of rain, which rendered a considerable amount of re-sowing necessary, especially in Tirhut, Motihari and Bettiah. During December and January the weather was very unsettled, and towards the end of January hail fell in many places doing considerable damage, and at the end of that month and in the beginning of February an unprecedented frost occurred which caused much loss, especially in Hazaribagh and the south of Gaya. The extent of the damage from hail is always difficult to estimate, and luckily the storms were mostly confined to small areas: but still it was considerable. It was estimated that in Tirhut the loss from cold and hail was 100 maunds, and in Motihari 50 maunds. Gaya was particularly unfortunate in respect of hail, as there were no less than four storms—the last on the 8th March. In Tehta, the loss from hail was estimated at 250 maunds, and 46 villages in Hazaribagh were devastated. When lancings commenced, the juice was very watery; but owing to the absence of west winds the number of lancings was exceptionally large, and in the end in several districts the outturn was much above the average. In Gaya, considerable damage was done by grubs.

In Benares, the monsoon rains were good, and appeared toend in the third week of September; but, after about a month of clear dry weather, there was a final heavy fall of rain over a large part of the Agency. In November, which was unusually warm, there were some showers of rain. In December and the early part of January more rain fell. The early sowings as a rule failed, and the later sowings were kept back a good deal by the damp weather. But for this backwardness the great frost which occurred on three nights at the end of January and the beginning of February 1905 would have caused much more damage to the opium crop than it did. The western districts suffered the most, but in the eastern also considerable loss was sustained. Fortunately in February fairly heavy rain fell in many districts, and the crop revived wonderfully. Notwithstanding occasional rain and hail in March, the weather, on the whole, was favourable, and the mild weather in the early part of April was highly beneficial.

Outturn of opium.

473. The outturn of opium during the year was 1,04,537 maunds. The *dam deta* produce at 70° consistence in the two Agencies which showed a decrease of 12,745 maunds in the year 1903-04 has further declined by 7,585 maunds in the year under report. In Bihar the general average gross produce per bigha (excluding failures) was 4 seers 2 chitaks 2 kachas during the year under report, or 4 chitaks more than in the previous year and 11 chitaks 3 katchas more than the average of the past seven years. The marked increase in the average outturn in the North Gangetic districts over that produced in the preceding year is attributable to the surrender of unproductive lands and to the generally favourable weather which prevailed over the unirrigated tracts during the whole of the year.

In Benares the average produce (4 seers 10 chitaks) was slightly higher than that of 1903-04 (4 seers 9 chitaks), the former being equal to the average of the last seven years. The best divisional average was that of Bara Banki (5 seers 13 chitaks), the worst being again that of Cawnpore (3 seers 4 chitaks).

Consistence of the season's opium.

474. The average consistence of the outturn of the Bihar Agency was 72·77° as compared with 74·68° of the preceding year, thus showing a decrease of 1·91°. This fall in consistence is due to the effect produced upon the drug by the unfavourable weather towards the close of the collection season. The average consistence of the opium supplied from the Benares Agency was 68·79° as compared with 69·71° of last year, or a decrease of ·92°. The average of both Bihar and Benares opium taken together worked out to 71·46° as compared with 72·52° last year. The average consistence for Benares was again low this year, being 68·68° as compared with 67·98° in

1903-04, and 70·33° the average of the previous ten years. The lowest consistence (65·24°) was that of the Etawah Division.

475. The opium sales during the 12 months from November 1904 to October 1905 comprised 39,762 chests manufactured in 1902-1903 and 8,238 chests manufactured in 1903-1904,—in all 48,000 chests, of which half was taken from each Agency in monthly lots of 4,000 chests. The number of chests sold during the twelve months was the same as that sold during the previous corresponding period. Sales.

476. The number of prosecutions in the Bihar Agency under Act XIII of 1857 was 179, as against 8 in the preceding year; that in Benares decreased from 208 in 1903-1904 to 98 during the year under review. Under Act I of 1878 the number of cases showed a decrease of 41 in Bihar and 10 in Benares. The percentage of fines realised in Bihar, viz., 61, is the same as in the previous year. At the same time the amount paid in rewards was in excess of the fines imposed. In Benares the realizations decreased from 86 to 77 per cent. Breaches of the Opium Laws.

SALT.

[Report on the administration of the Salt Department for 1905-1906; Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Section III, Salt.]

477. The *rawana* system was abolished with effect from the 1st April 1906. The control of salt preventive operations in the two districts of Noakhali and Chittagong which were transferred to the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam on the partition, continued to be exercised under the orders of the Government of Bengal with the concurrence of the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, as it was not considered desirable to exclude these two districts from the operations of the Department so long as the present experimental stage of salt administration continued. Abolition of *Rawana* System and partition of Bengal.

478. Revised proposals in connection with the sanctioned scheme for the re-organization of the Salt Department were sanctioned by the Supreme Government in their order of 12th September 1905. Preventive operations were accordingly begun with the opening of the active season in October 1905 in Noakhali, and on an independent footing in Howrah, where they had been carried on tentatively since January 1902 by a small party under the Inspector of the Tamluk (Terapakia) Circle in the district of Midnapore. Preventive operations in the districts of Midnapore, the 24-Parganas, Noakhali and Khulna were placed under the control of the Collectors who were vested with the powers of an Assistant Commissioner under section 30 of the Indian Salt Act, XII of 1882. The jurisdiction of the Assistant Commissioner was consequently restricted to Howrah and the 24-Parganas. In the latter district he exercises his powers concurrently with the Collector. Revised proposals in connection with the scheme of reorganization.

479. At the commencement of the year the stocks of salt in all *golas*, both public and private, amounted to 22,35,689 maunds, being over one lakh of maunds more than on the 1st April 1904, but the quantity of salt imported during the year under report showed a decline of nearly $6\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of maunds. The clearances were larger than in the previous year by more than $1\frac{1}{4}$ lakh. After allowing for wastage, the closing balance stood at 16,63,665 maunds. In addition to this, there were at the close of the year 3,43,950 maunds of salt lying afloat in the port of Calcutta against 3,63,662 maunds at the end of 1904-1905. During the year under report the percentage on the total importations of salt bonded in the Sulkea and Kidderpore Dock *golas* amounted to 71 against 70 in the previous year. There was a decrease, both in the quantity imported and bonded, due to scarcity of freight. Accounts of stocks and issues.

480. The quantities of salt imported by sea from different countries into Bengal during the year 1905-1906 amounted to 1,08,18,934 maunds. There was a decrease of 5·6 per cent. in importations into Calcutta during the year for which the United Kingdom, Hamburg and Bremen, Ras Rawaya and Madras were chiefly responsible. The imports from the United Kingdom fell short by nearly 12 lakhs of maunds and from Hamburg and Bremen by over 6 lakhs. During the year Port Said showed an importation of over 3 lakhs of maunds after an entire cessation of imports in the two preceding years. There was an increase from other foreign ports—Spain, Salif, Aden and Bombay. Imports.

Spanish salt is struggling to find a market. Madras records a further decline of about 50 per cent. due probably to want of freight.

Sales of imported salt from ship-board and bond.

481. In Calcutta the sales from importing vessels direct decreased by 16·8 per cent., while there was an increase in the sales from bond by 3·9 per cent. Of the vessels carrying salt into Calcutta during the year, 95 per cent. were steamers.

Transactions in the Sulkea and Kidderpore Dock golas.

482. The quantity of salt handled at Sulkea was 99,29,028 maunds against 1,06,35,902 maunds in the preceding year and at Kidderpore 68,38,696 maunds against 56,35,006 maunds. The transaction during the year was the highest on record, and no difficulty was experienced in providing bonding space as the salt landed in the golas did not remain long in store. The demand for consumption speedily cleared space for further consignments. The Kidderpore salt golas received 40 per cent. of the whole quantity bonded, as compared with 33 per cent. in the preceding year. As the Port Commissioners are likely, in the near future, to require the site at present occupied by the Kidderpore golas, the selection of a new site will demand attention. The landing of salt at Sulkea continues unsatisfactory and, combined with labour difficulties, is the cause of some anxiety. It is expected, however, that with the completion of the two new *golas* now under construction and the increased railway sidings and extra pontoons now sanctioned, these difficulties will be much reduced.

Inland bonded warehouses.

483. There are only two warehouses in the Province since the transfer of those in Eastern Bengal to the new Province. Both are located at Chandbali and owned by Messrs. Turner, Morrison & Co. The quantityof salt despatched to the two warehouses as well as to those transferred to the new Province amounted to 12,90,791 maunds (9,23,310 maunds from shipboard and 3,67,481 maunds from the *golas* in Calcutta) as compared with 13,18,024 (9,86,762 maunds from shipboard and 3,31,262 maunds from the *golas*) in 1904-05, a decrease of 2 per cent.

Inland transport of duty-paid salt.

484. The total quantity despatched from Calcutta amounted to 99,08,862 maunds, showing an increase of 1·6 per cent. Of this aggregate 21·36 per cent. was conveyed by boats, 9·68 per cent. by steamers and flats, and 68·96 per cent. by rail against 22·66, 10·53 and 66·81 per cent., respectively, during the preceding year.

Imports of Madras salt into Orissa by land.

485. The quantity of Madras *karkatch* and refined salt imported into Orissa by land during the year was 7,65,252 maunds against 10,15,292 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 24·6 per cent. The decrease was due to low stocks in the factories of the Ganjam district owing to the complete failure of manufacture last season. The Oriental Salt Company, Limited, did not import into Cuttack any Madras salt in consequence and had to close their depôts for such salt in the district of Balasore from the 1st July 1905.

Consumption in Bengal.

486. The total quantity of salt consumed in the Province during the year under report was 94,93,618 maunds. This is exclusive of 5,80,292 maunds, the net export by land, but inclusive of 16,262 maunds educed from saltpetre. Of the total quantity, the saliferous tracts of this province took 15,92,503 maunds or 16·8 per cent. and the rest of the province 79,01,113 maunds or 83·2 per cent. The resulting rate of consumption per head in the saliferous tracts was 6 seers or 12·3 lbs. and in the rest of the province 7 seers 2 chitaks or 14·6 lbs. The rates of consumption per head of population in the Bombay and Madras Presidencies during 1904-05 were 11·68 lbs. and 17·1 lbs., respectively.

Consumption of salt in the town of Calcutta.

487. The quantity of salt consumed in the town of Calcutta during the year 1904-05 and 1905-06 amounted to 1,52,281 maunds and 1,57,524 maunds, respectively, giving an average annual consumption of 7 seers and 7 seers 3 chitaks or 14·4 and 14·8 pounds approximately per head of population calculated on the census figures of 1901 plus the usual allowance for annual increase.

Prices of salt in Bengal generally.

488. The further reduction in the rate of duty from Rs. 2 to Re. 1-8 a maund from the 22nd March 1905 brought about a fall in retail prices and benefited all classes of people in the province. In the district of Noakhali, where the Rawana system was in force, prices were not stable but fluctuated from time to time. Exclusive of duty, the average wholesale price of Liverpool salt per hundred maunds as sold from the ship's side in the port of Calcutta amounted to Rs. 50-11-9 during the year, as compared with

Rs. 48-10-2 in 1904-1905. Prices which in 1904-1905 varied from Rs. 46-6-6 to Rs. 51-5-4 fluctuated in the year under report from Rs. 45-9-7 to Rs. 67-5.

489. The control of preventive operations in the several districts was exercised by the Collectors, and in Howrah by the Assistant Commissioner. Illicit salt was attached, released and confiscated in 177, 1 and 140 cases against 586, 1 and 642 (exclusive of Backerganj) cases in the previous year to the extent of 105 maunds, 30 seers and 69 maunds against 56 maunds, 10 seers and 69 maunds during the year 1904-1905. There was thus an increase of 49 maunds or 87·5 per cent. in the quantity attached owing to a large quantity of contraband salt having been seized in the district of Khulna, where the preventive force was strengthened during the year. Preventive operations in the saliferous districts.

490. The financial results of the year as compared with those in 1904-1905 show a decrease of Rs. 69,97,445 or 31·2 per cent. in the receipts, and of Rs. 1,12,005 or 22·7 in the charges, yielding a net revenue of Rs. 1,49,95,394, which is less than that of the previous year by Rs. 68,85,440 or 31·4 per cent. It is to be noted that the charges do not include a proportionate share of the cost of the Customs Preventive Service which is largely employed in safeguarding the salt revenue. The decrease in receipts occurs mainly under heads "Import duty on salt," "Rent of warehouses" and "Miscellaneous" and is due to the reduction in the rate of duty, smaller importation of salt, and to the exclusion of the receipts of the districts of the New Province from the figures of the year under review. The decrease of Rs. 593 under head "One-half value of stamps on applications for rawanas" is also due to the exclusion of the receipts of the district of Chittagong transferred to the New Province. Financial results.

491. The quantity of salt educed in the manufcature of saltpetre during the year and removed on payment of duty from all the refineries in the province was 16,262 maunds against 15,594 maunds in the previous year, showing an increase of 668 maunds. The increase was due to ordinary fluctuations in the trade. Trade in saltpetre in Bengal.

EXCISE.

[Report on the Administration of the Excise Department in the Lower Provinces of Bengal for the year 1905-1906; Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Section V, Excise.]

492. The Committee, constituted by the Government of India to consider the progress of excise administration in respect of intoxicating liquors and to promote reforms therein, visited this Province, and held sittings in Calcutta, Bankipore, Darjeeling, Cuttack and Burdwan. They visited the local distilleries, recorded both official and non-official evidence, and conferred over excise matters with the Local Government. Excise Committee.

493. Of the gross demand of Rs. 1,53,49,285, a sum of Rs. 1,53,18,436 or 99·7 per cent. was realized. Of the balance of Rs. 30,849, the sum of Rs. 12,247 was remitted as irrecoverable; while of the net arrear balance (Rs. 18,602) a sum of Rs. 1,237 has been recovered, the realization of Rs. 2,623 is doubtful, Rs. 5,478 are said to be irrecoverable, and the rest (Rs. 9,264) is in course of realization. Taking the population of Bengal according to the last Census at 51 millions, the incidence of the excise revenue of the year is 4 annas 9 pies per head, against 4 annas 5 pies in the previous year; but allowing for an increase of 7 per thousand per annum as representing the average annual growth of population, the incidence of the excise revenue is 4 annas 7 pies per head. Demand, collection and balance.

There has been a net increase of Rs. 6,50,698, shared by all the divisions except Bhagalpur, which shows a decrease of Rs. 29,825. The increase is large in the Chota Nagpur (Rs. 2,30,922), Patna (Rs. 1,99,205), and Burdwan (Rs. 1,49,228) Divisions. The increase is generally attributed to favourable crop prospects and free competition among bidders.

494. In consequence of the introduction of the Contract System for the supply of country spirit into the districts of Midnapore, Cuttack, Balasore and Puri, the distilleries in these districts have been converted into warehouses for the storage of liquor. The dye issued for colouring country spirit did not prove a success. It was, therefore, discontinued from January 1906. The rules regarding sites were carefully observed during the year. Country Spirit.

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During the year the manufacture and sale of country spirit were carried on under two systems, *viz.*, the fixed duty or Central Distillery System and the Outstill system, except in the districts of Midnapore, Cuttack, Balasore and Puri, where the Contract Supply System was in force.

Distillery liquor licenses for retail sale.

495. The total number of licenses issued was 1,009 against 994 in the previous year, showing an increase of 15. The increase was large in Saran (15), Patna (13), and Shahabad (10) where, owing to the extension of distillery areas, outstills were converted into distillery shops. In Sambalpur 16 shops were abolished as being unnecessary. In Calcutta the number of shops was reduced by ten. These shops were either situated in congested areas or on sites which were considered objectionable. In Bihar there is a great difference in area per distillery shop, even in contiguous districts. In Shahabad and Saran the area per distillery shop is 16·5 and 12·5 square miles, respectively, while in Patna and Gaya it is 6·5 and 8·5 square miles, respectively.

There was an increase in the revenue from license-fees from Rs. 12,22,648 to Rs. 14,31,768, or to the extent of Rs. 2,09,120. The increase was marked in Calcutta (Rs. 1,03,991), Saran (Rs. 20,777), Patna (Rs. 18,354), the Sonthal Parganas (Rs. 9,797), Hooghly (Rs. 9,713), the 24-Parganas (Rs. 8,256), Murshidabad (Rs. 5,232) and Gaya (Rs. 4,569), and was due to favourable settlements and larger collection of advance fees. In Saran and Patna the increase was due to the issue of a larger number of licenses on account of the extension of the distillery area.

The total receipts, including license fees, distillery fees and duty, amounted to Rs. 39,86,168 against Rs. 36,14,810 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 3,71,358.

Outstills—licenses.

496. The total number of licenses issued was 1,874 against 1,965 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 91. The decrease was large in Sambalpur (44), Saran (15), Patna (12) and Shahabad (10). The decrease in Sambalpur was due to the transfer of 44 outstills to the districts of Raipur and Bilaspur in the Central Provinces. The decrease in Saran, Patna and Shahabad was due to the extension of the distillery areas in those districts. In Palamau 6 outstills were abolished in the hope of checking drunkenness. The limit of retail sale in this district has also been reduced from six to three quart bottles from the current year.

Country Rum.

497. Four licenses for the sale of rum only were taken out in Calcutta against 10 in the preceding year, showing a decrease of 6 licenses. The decrease was due to the abolition of shops which were considered unnecessary. The receipts from license fees amounted to Rs. 21,680 against Rs. 22,280 in the previous year, showing a decrease of Rs. 600.

Imported Liquor.

498. The total number of licenses issued for the sale of imported liquor was 507 against 515 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 8. There was an increase of 3 licenses under the head "Hotel," 2 under "Railway refreshment room" and 14 under "Steamer," while there was a decrease of 17 licenses under the head "Wholesale," 8 under "General retail" and 2 under "Dâk bungalow." The total receipts, which are derived from license fees alone, amounted to Rs. 2,85,626 against Rs. 2,54,646 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 30,980. There was an increase amounting to Rs. 34,069 in 18 districts, while in 14 districts there was a decrease of Rs. 3,089. In one district the revenue was stationary.

Methylated Spirit.

499. The total quantity of methylated spirit passed out was 117,949 gallons, against 111,584 gallons in the previous year, showing an increase of 6,365 gallons. The increase is attributed to increased manufacture of shellac. The receipts from duty amounted to Rs. 5,101 against Rs. 3,480.

Tari.

500. The total number of licenses issued was 14,149 against 13,943, and the total receipts were Rs. 11,11,794 against Rs. 10,74,738 in the previous year, there being thus an increase of 206 licenses and of Rs. 37,056 in revenue. The number of licenses issued was 13,957 against 13,702 in the previous year, showing an increase of 255.

The receipts from fermented *tari* were Rs. 11,08,967 against Rs. 10,71,793 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 37,174.

Pachwai.

501. The total number of licenses issued was 10,058 against 10,436 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 378. The receipts rose from Rs. 5,55,002 to Rs. 5,81,645, or by Rs. 26,643.

The number of licenses for retail sale decreased from 1,660 to 1,643, but the revenue increased from Rs. 5,29,980 to Rs. 5,57,516, or by Rs. 27,536. The most noticeable increase took place in Burdwan (Rs. 19,730), and was due to improvement in the coal trade. The number of licenses for home-brewing decreased from 8,776 to 8,415 and the revenue from Rs. 25,022 to Rs. 24,129.

Country beer.

502. In this Province there are only two breweries, situated at Sonada and Kurseong in the Darjeeling district. The former supplies beer to the Commissariat Department and also to the public and pays an annual license-fee of Rs. 160; the latter (St. Mary's Seminary) manufactures for home consumption only and pays an annual fee of Rs. 25. The total quantity of beer issued from the two breweries was 78,237 gallons against 99,968 gallons in the previous year. The prescribed duty of one anna a gallon was levied on all beer issued. The total revenue including license-fees and duty amounted to Rs. 5,075 against Rs. 6,433 in the previous year, showing a decrease of Rs. 1,358.

Ganja.

503. On the transfer of the district of Rajshahi to the new Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, with effect from the 16th October 1905, the administration of *ganja* cultivation at Naugaon passed to that Province. The number of licenses for the retail sale of *ganja* was 2,009 against 2,021 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 12. The license fees realised amounted to Rs. 11,54,815 against Rs. 10,94,892 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 59,923. An uniform rate of duty of Rs. 11 per seer in Bengal and Bihar and of Rs. 9 per seer in Orissa was fixed on all descriptions of *ganja* with effect from the 23rd May 1905. The rate of duty on Khandwa *ganja* consumed in Sambalpur alone was Rs. 4 per seer.

The most noticeable feature is a general decline in total consumption and an enormous increase in the consumption of *chur ganja*, the other varieties except round showing nominal sales. The total consumption in the year shows a net decrease of 886 maunds. But the decrease was more apparent than real, as *chur ganja*, containing the least inert matter, was mainly consumed. The actual consumption in Bengal amounted to 3,240 maunds against 3,994 maunds, while 491 maunds were exported duty-paid against 623 maunds in the previous year, showing a decrease of 754 and 132 maunds, respectively. The *ganja* consumed in Sambalpur was imported from Khandwa in the Central Provinces, while Rajshahi *ganja* was consumed in all other districts. From the current year Rajshahi *ganja* is being supplied to the district of Sambalpur, and the duty has been fixed at Rs. 6 a seer. The amount realized from duty shows an increase of Rs. 2,79,654, which is due to the fixing of a single rate of duty on all sorts of *ganja*.

Siddhi, Bhang or Sabzi.

504. Four hundred and forty-four licenses were taken out in 30 districts against 435 licenses in the same number of districts in the previous year. There was an increase of 9 licenses in 6 districts, new shops being opened in order to meet ascertained local demand.

The total quantity of *siddhi* issued from district warehouses was 1,160 maunds against 1,053 maunds in the previous year, showing an increase of 107 maunds. The receipts from license fees and duty amounted to Rs. 91,791 against Rs. 84,372 in the previous year. The increase of Rs. 7,419 is contributed both by license fees (Rs. 4,965) and duty (Rs. 2,454). The total quantity of *bhang* collected in Monghyr was 179 maunds against 352 maunds in the previous year, showing a decrease of 173 maunds, while in Bhagalpur, 1,115 maunds of *bhang* were collected against 863 maunds in the previous year, showing an increase of 252 maunds.

Charas.

505. The number of licenses issued was 50 against 49 in the previous year. In Gaya a new shop was opened during the year to meet the demand of pilgrims visiting the district from the United Provinces and the Punjab. The total quantity of *charas* imported during the year was 24 maunds 53 seers, against 27 maunds 32 seers in the previous year, showing a decrease of nearly 3 maunds. The receipts from license fees and duty amounted to Rs. 18,726 and Rs 11,790 against Rs. 18,014 and Rs. 12,838 during the previous year. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 30,516, showing a decrease of Rs 336.

Majum.

506. During the year under report 19 licenses were issued in 12 districts as compared with 17 licenses in 9 districts in the previous year.

The total number of licenses in force in the years 1890-1891, 1895-1896 and 1900-1901 were 32, 21 and 19, respectively, so it appears that the demand for this comparatively innocuous sweetmeat is gradually decreasing.

Opium.

507. The total number of licenses issued for the retail sale of opium was 1,304 against 1,326 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 22. The revenue from license-fees rose from Rs. 5,74,288 to Rs. 5,95,992, or by Rs. 21,704. The increase was large in Midnapore (Rs. 3,742), Cuttack (Rs. 3,442), Hooghly (Rs. 3,148), Balasore (Rs. 3,062), the 24-Parganas (Rs. 2,960), Calcutta (Rs. 2,215), Muzaffarpur (Rs. 1,704), and Bhagalpur (Rs. 1,513), and was due to favourable settlements. In Sambalpur there was decrease of Rs. 7,222, due to the transfer of several shops to Raipur and Bilaspur.

The quantity of opium sold was 2,038 maunds 15 seers against 1,958 maunds 34 seers in the previous year, showing an increase of 79 maunds 21 seers. The increase was large in Balasore (16 maunds 29 seers), Cuttack (14 maunds 1 seer), Midnapore (9 maunds 17 seers), the 24-Parganas (9 maunds 7 seers) and Calcutta (8 maunds and 22 seers). The increased consumption in those districts most distant from the producing districts shows that there is still an ample margin for taxation.

Cocaine.

508. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 22,43,052 against Rs. 21,51,330 in the previous year, shewing an increase of Rs. 91,722. Of this increase, a sum of Rs. 21,704 was contributed by license fees and Rs. 70,018 by duty.

The total number of licenses issued was 211 against 192 in the previous year, and receipts from license fees amounted to Rs. 216 against Rs. 212.

The number of persons convicted of illicit sale and possession of cocaine was 214, viz., 189 in Calcutta, 8 in the 24-Parganas, 7 in Hooghly, 4 in each of the districts of Monghyr and Bhagalpur, and 2 in Purnea.

Offences against the Excise and Opium laws.

509. During the year under review the number of persons arrested for offences against the Excise and Opium laws was 3,230 against 3,018 in the previous year. The increase was most marked in Midnapore (193), Singhbhum (152) and the Sonthal Parganas (119), while Calcutta showed a decrease of 173.

In Midnapore the increase was due to the appointment of additional officers to the district to safeguard the new system of Contract supply of spirit. In Singhbhum illicit distillation is prevalent in spite of the concession of free home-brewing of pachwai allowed to the aborigines. In the Sonthal Parganas the increase was the natural reaction after the comparative lull of the previous year. In Calcutta small sales of cocaine in the streets and betel-shops have greatly decreased, due to vigorous measures taken during the preceding two years. There is still a marked reluctance on the part of Magistrates to impose adequate punishments in excise cases. The rewards distributed are often quite insufficient to cover the outlay incurred in detection.

Work of Excise and Police officers.

510. The number of persons arrested by Excise officers increased from 2,088 to 2,345 in the year under report, while the number arrested by other officers decreased from 930 to 885. The Excise officers obtained convictions in 88·9 per cent. and Police officers in 83·4 per cent. of the cases sent up by them.

The number of persons imprisoned during the year was 221 against 222 during the previous year and 225 in 1903-1904.

STAMPS.

[Resolution by the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, on the working of the Stamp Department for the year 1905-1906; Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Section VII, Stamps.]

Stamp Revenue.

511. The revenue collected under the Stamp and Court-fees Acts amounted to Rs. 1,41,83,281, against Rs. 1,35,57,869 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 6,25,412. The figures adopted in the revised budget estimate for the year were Rs. 1,42,00,000, or Rs. 16,719 more than was actually realised. The increase of revenue was obtained both from Judicial and non-judicial stamps. The total charges during the year amounted to Rs. 3,53,153, the increase of 6·6 per cent. over the figures of 1904-1905 being mainly under "Refunds."

Judicial Stamps.

512. The sale proceeds of Court-fee stamps, excluding stamps for copies, rose from Rs. 90,31,486 to Rs. 96,13,749, that is, by Rs. 5,82,263. The greater portion of the increase was contributed by the districts of Calcutta

(Rs. 2,34,594), Midnapore (Rs. 53,697), Purnea (Rs. 41,963), Bhagalpur (Rs. 38,891), the 24-Parganas, (Rs. 31,332), Murshidabad (Rs. 24,558), Darbhanga (Rs. 23,338), Hazaribagh (Rs. 22,995), Patna (Rs. 21,745) and Shahabad (Rs. 20,610). The increase in Calcutta is attributed mainly to the heavy probate duties paid in respect of some estates, one of which alone brought in Rs. 1,19,689. The increase in the districts of Purnea and Bhagalpur was due to survey and settlement operations. The increase in other districts is generally attributed to the increased number and value of civil suits and rent suits. The largest decrease (Rs. 39,384) occurred in Gaya, and is attributed to the fact that the figures of the preceding year had been unusually swollen by the heavy probate duties paid in respect of some estates. The decrease (Rs. 18,212) in Muzaffarpur is ascribed to the marked falling off in the number of civil suits instituted, as well as to a decrease in the sale of stamps of higher value used for probates.

513. Non-judicial stamps yielded an increased revenue to the extent of Rs. 82,947 or 2·2 per cent, compared with the year 1904-1905. The increase was shared by all classes of stamps except one-anna receipt stamps and stamps for Legal Practitioners' licenses. The revenue derived from the sale of impresseds tamps amounted to Rs. 20,83,098, against Rs. 19,33,515. The revenue derived from the sale of *hundis* or inland bills-of-exchange was Rs. 1,34,422, showing an increase of Rs. 9,215 as compared with the receipts of the preceding year. The receipts from the sale of impressed labels, which are used only in Calcutta, amounted to Rs. 9,66,652, against Rs. 8,80,001. The decrease in the sale of stamps for Legal Practitioners' licenses is mainly due to the fact that the sum of Rs. 24,887 shown against Calcutta during the year 1904-1905 included the sale of such stamps to the value of Rs. 20,250 made directly by the Controller of Stamps. The increase in the sale of forms for cheques or receipts was obtained mainly in Calcutta, and is attributed to the growth of trade. There was a decrease of Rs. 60,045 under the head "Miscellaneous Receipts" as compared with the previous year. **Non-Judicial stamps.**

514. The total number of vendors engaged in the sale of Judicial and non-judicial stamps during the year was 2,987, showing a decrease as compared with the previous year of 75 persons. There was a considerable decrease in the number of vendors in the districts of the Chota Nagpur Division, where the average earnings of the vendors were very low. In Calcutta the number of vendors decreased by 12, and the reduction is attributed to the abolition of one-anna receipt stamps, the sale of which constituted a profitable source of income. The discount allowed during the year exceeded that of the preceding year by Rs. 1,600. The ncrease was the necessary result of increased sales. **Sale of Stamps.**

515. The total number of cases in which deficient duty and penalty were levied by the Courts during the year shows an increase of 125, and there was an increase of Rs. 2,284 in the duty and penalty realised in comparison with the realisations of the preceding year. There was an increase of 86 in the number of cases decided, but a decrease of Rs. 34,116 in the duty and penalty realised by Revenue officers, as compared with the figures of the previous year. The decrease occurred mainly in Calcutta. **Deficient duty.**

516. The number of cases instituted for the infringement of the provisions of the Stamp Act was 667, in which 650 persons were tried against 295 cases and 311 persons in the preceding year. The fines imposed amounted to Rs. 5,701, against Rs. 4,711, while the amount distributed in rewards was Rs. 3,173, against Rs. 4,216. In Calcutta there was a marked increase in the number of cases instituted and the amount of fines imposed as compared with the preceding year. This was due to the larger number of cases detected during the year and the measures recently adopted for the detection of offences. The increased activity in detective measures adopted has resulted in certain complaints in Calcutta which are under enquiry by the Commissioner. **Prosecutions under the Stamp Act.**

INCOME-TAX.

[Resolution by the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, on the Administration of the Income-tax Department for 1905-1906; Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Section VIII, Income-tax.]

517. The receipts, charges and net revenue of the year 1905-1906 were, respectively, Rs. 46,48,526, Rs. 1,51,862 and Rs. 44,96,664. **Financial results.**

The net revenue showed an increase of 6·7 per cent., as compared with an increase of 1·9 per cent. in 1904-1905.

Collections.

518. The collections on the profits of companies showed a noticeable increase of Rs. 1,87,942 or 34·6 per cent. in comparison with the preceding year. The increase is mainly due to the prosperity of the Jute manufacturing and Banking Companies in Calcutta. Outside Calcutta, the receipts from companies were largest in the district of Darjeeling, where the collections advanced from Rs. 7,970 during 1904-1905 to Rs. 9,123 during the year under report, owing chiefly to the increased profits derived by the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway Company.

The total number of assessees in the lowest class of Part IV (*i.e.*, those assessed on the lowest taxable income of Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,250) was 10,602, which shews a decrease of 188 or 1·7 per cent. on the number of persons assessed in this class in the preceding year. Of these assessees 552 were formerly in higher classes, 1,455 were new assessees and 2,809 were assessees who in previous years had been assessed in lower classes.

The final number of assessees and the final demand for the year 1905-1906 shew an increase of 1,080 persons and Rs. 3,37,962, or 2·6 and 8·7 per cent., as compared with 1·7 and ·6 per cent., respectively, during the previous year. Of these increases Calcutta contributed 917 persons and Rs. 3,02,362 or 84·9 and 89·5 per cent., respectively, and this result is attributed to the commercial prosperity of the city during the year under report.

The amount remitted as irrecoverable shows a noticeable decrease of Rs. 63,961 during the year under report. The remission in Calcutta of Rs. 24,023, as compared with Rs. 85,358 in 1904-1905, is mainly responsible for this result.

The percentage of collections on the final demand on account of tax for the year was 97·07, as compared with the 97·2 during the year 1904-1905. The districts of Birbhum, Bankura, Champaran, Cuttack, Sambalpur, Puri, Ranchi and Palamau succeeded in collecting the entire demand within the year. The prescribed standard was attained in all the other districts.

The total cost of assessment and collection during the year shews an increase of Rs. 11,214 or 8 per cent. in comparison with the previous year, owing chiefly to the entertainment of additional establishments in Calcutta and to the grant of the increased horse allowance to the Income-tax assessors there.

Forest Revenue.

[Progress Report of Forest Administration in the Lower Provinces of Bengal for 1905-1906.]

Forest Revenue.

519. The receipts from forests for the forest year 1905-1906 amounted to Rs. 9,90,281 as compared with Rs. 9,70,904 in the previous year, these figures excluding the Jalpaiguri, Buxa and Chittagong Divisions and including those of the Sambalpur Division. Angul and Tista are the only two Divisions shown as having been worked at a deficit. In Angul the deficit referred to last year was reduced to Rs. 3,085, and if certain extra charges had not been necessary in connection with surveys and tanks for use in time of scarcity, the division would have shown a surplus. The Tista Division in reality was not worked at a loss, since Rs. 18,589, the value of Tista sleepers, etc., sold in the Kurseong Division was credited to the latter instead of to the former division, and the balance in hand in depôts is valued at Rs. 10,000 in favour of the year. On the other hand six divisions raised their surplus, or decreased their deficits of last year, four only showing a diminished surplus.

The Sunderbans division besides expending only 28 per cent. of its receipts gives 45 per cent. of the Circle's revenue. The revenue during the year has increased by Rs. 51,000 and the surplus by Rs. 54,000. The total revenue and surplus realized in the Singhbhum Division was Rs. 1,46,377 and Rs. 45,331, respectively, as compared with an average of Rs. 1,01,983 and Rs. 12,551, respectively, for the previous five years. In Puri, the revenue has increased by no less than 33 per cent. over that of last year; the surplus rising from Rs. 12,165 to Rs. 29,694. The Sonthal Parganas and Palamau Divisions also show satisfactory increases in both revenue and surplus.

Provincial Finance.

520. The following statement shows the actual receipts and charges on Provincial account of Provincial Services for 1905-1906 as compared with those of 1904-1905 :— Finance.

[*The figures are in thousands.*]

Receipts.	1904-1905. For Bengal Proper as after partition for 12 months.	1904-1905. For districts transferred to Eastern Bengal and Assam for 12 months.	1905-1906. For Bengal Proper as after partition for 12 months.	1905-1906. For districts transferred to Eastern Bengal and Assam for 6½ months.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Opening balance	1,42,53	.....	1,30,00	.....
Principal heads of Revenue—				
I.—Land Revenue { Proper ...	73,70	33,26	75,28	10,51
I.—Land Revenue { Adjustments...	+49,49	.....	+95,63	.....
IV.—Stamps	67,52	36,78	71,60	20,26
V.—Excise	61,55	11,91	66,75	6,95
VI.—Provincial Rates	36,44	15,60	38,48	7,87
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	10,88	1,70	11,61	96
IX.—Forests	2,20	72	2,48	32
X.—Registration	10,18	6,72	10,83	3,68
Total	3,11,96	1,06,69	3,70,66	50,55
XII.—Interest	2,62	24	2,52	9
Receipts by Civil Department—				
XVI.—Law and Justice—				
Courts of Law	5,61	2,37	5,61	1,37
Jails	12,31	1,56	12,20	67
XVII.—Police	1,68	18	1,27	7
XVIII.—Marine	14,97	23	15,05	14
XIX.—Education	5,79	1,49	5,82	77
XX.—Medical	2,46	7	4,54	3
XXI.—Scientific and other Minor Departments	2,74	1	2,73	.....
Total	45,56	5,91	47,21	3,05
Miscellaneous—				
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation	60	7	86	5
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing ...	1,32	14	1,23	9
XXV.—Miscellaneous	5,95	1,96	5,05	36
Total ...	7,87	2,17	7,14	50
Irrigation—				
XXIX.—Major Works (Direct Receipts)	20,46	.....	21,39	.....
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation—				
By Public Works Department	7,01	.....	6,68	.....
By Civil Department ...	1,43	.....	1,22	.....
Total ...	28,90	.....	29,29	.....
Buildings and Roads—				
XXXII.—Civil Works—				
By Public Works Department	3,61	28	2,23	4
By Civil Department ...	1,84	65	1,92	26
Total ...	5,45	93	4,14	30
Contributions	47	22	44	7
Total ...	4,02,83	1,16,16	4,61,40	54,56
	5,18,99		5,15,96	
Grand Total ...	6,61,52		6,45,96	

Expenditure.	1904-1905. For Bengal Proper as after partition for 12 months.	1904-1905. For districts transferred to Eastern Bengal and Assam for 12 months.	1905-1906. For Bengal Proper as after partition for 12 months.	1905-1906. For districts transferred to Eastern Bengal and Assam for 6½ months.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Direct demand on the Revenues—				
1. Refunds and Drawbacks ...	1,00	23	1,14	12
2. Assignments and Compensations	1,15	36	39	6
3. Land Revenue	30,71	12,22	32,28	8,28
6. Stamps	2,10	1,36	2,19	39
7. Excise	2,99	59	3,02	33
8. Provincial Rates	53	31	57	22
10. Assessed Taxes	32	7	36	3
11. Forests	1,26	46	1,29	19
12. Registration	5,88	3,83	6,06	2,22
Total ...	45,94	19,43	47,32	11,84
13. Interest on ordinary debt ...	1,83	13	2,10	.....
Post Office	.....	.....	2	.....
Salaries and Expenses of Civil Department—				
18. General Administration ...	17,27	2,00	19,29	80
19. Law and Justice { Courts of Law ..	69,78	28,85	71,28	16,25
19. Law and Justice { Jails ...	19,15	6,60	24,50	2,97
20. Police	51,57	15,89	58,93	9,21
21. Marine	18,22	25	12,70	12
22. Education	30,68	5,64	31,69	3,13
24. Medical	19,93	3,15	21,74	1,67
25. Political	13	8	13	.....
26. Scientific and other Minor Departments	6,94	6	9,72	5
Total ...	2,33,67	62,52	2,49,98	34,20
Miscellaneous—				
29. Superannuation, &c.... ...	22,94	4,13	23,92	2,29
30. Stationery and Printing ...	9,72	1,32	10,79	9
32. Miscellaneous	3,05	38	3,47	15
Total ...	35,71	5,83	38,18	2,53
Railways (Revenue Account)—				
40. Subsidized Companies—				
Land, &c.	4	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total ...	4	.....	.....	.....
Irrigation—				
42. Major Works—				
Working Expenses ...	9,88	.....	10,18	.....
Interest on Debt ...	24,52	.....	24,52	.....
43. Minor Works and Navigation—				
By Public Works Department	16,84	2	21,57	1
By Civil Department ...	6	.....	10	.....
Total ...	51,30	2	56,37	1
Buildings and Roads—				
45. Civil Works—				
By Public Works Department	48,40	9,98	59,58	3,21
By Civil Department ...	1,83	36	1,70	2
Total ...	50,23	10,34	61,28	3,23
Contributions	10,68	3,85	22,77	5,65
Total ...	4,29,40	1,02,12	4,78,02	57,46
	5,31,52		5,35,48	
Closing balance	1,30,00		1,10,48	
Grand Total ...	6,61,52		6,45,96	
Provincial surplus (+) or deficit (−)	−13,53		−19,45	

521. The increase under *Land Revenue* was chiefly under ordinary revenue and partly also for unexpected receipts from the sale of Government Estates in Patna, Puri and Hooghly. Under *Adjustments* the actuals of 1905-1906 included special grants of 38 lakhs for Primary Education, Police reforms, Agricultural developments and grants to District Boards, as well as Rs. 7,56,000 for net surplus of the Eastern districts transferred to the Government of Eastern Receipts.

Bengal and Assam and Rs. 91,000 for the excess of provincial expenditure on account of Sambalpur transferred to this province from the 16th October 1905. The increase under *Registration* was for larger receipts from registration fees. The decrease under *Jails* was due to smaller cash sales and supplies to public departments, while that under *Police* was due to the transfer of "Fines for prevention of cruelty to animals," to Law and Justice—Courts of Law, and to smaller receipts under Fees, fines and forfeitures. The increase under *Marine* occurred under pilotage receipts in the Port of Calcutta, that under *Medical* was due to a special contribution of two lakhs from the Calcutta Hospital Port Dues Fund towards the maintenance of the Presidency General Hospital, while that under *Superannuation* was in consequence of the adjustment of the cash balance of the Police Superannuation Fund after its abolition. The decrease under *Stationery and Printing* was due to smaller recoveries for value of printing works done for local funds, while that under *Miscellaneous* was chiefly under unclaimed deposits. The increase under *Irrigation—Major Works* was under water rates in the Orissa project and Navigation receipts of all canals, while the decrease under *Minor Works and Navigation* was under Navigation receipts from the Calcutta and Eastern Canals and smaller recoveries on account of lands benefited by embankments.

Expenditure.

522. The increase under *Land Revenue* was partly under charges of District Administration and partly under Management of Government Estates, that under *Stamps* was under stamped paper supplied from Central Stores, while that under *Registration* was due to the partial effect of the reorganization of the Department. The increase under *General Administration* was due to—(*a*) expenditure on saloon carriages and purchase of motor car for His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor; (*b*) expenditure on public rejoicing on account of Royal Visit; (*c*) special payment of Rs. 15,000 to the Maharaja of Gidhour on account of his travelling expenses for attending Legislative Council meetings; (*d*) purchase of motor cars for the Divisional Commissioners; (*e*) for cost of a steam launch for the Commissioner of the Presidency Division; and (*f*) for charges in connection with the revision of village panchayats. The increase under *Courts of Law* was distributed under High Court, Civil Sessions Courts, Criminal Courts and Presidency Magistrates; that under *Jails* was for larger outlay on purchase of raw materials, dietary charges and clothing and bedding of prisoners, while that under *Police* was partially due to the reorganization of the Department as recommended by the Police Commission. The decrease under *Marine* was due to larger expenditure in 1904-05 for the cost of the new steamer cruiser *Fraser*. The increase under *Education* was due to the appointment of Mr. Earle on special duty, to the appointment of an Inspectress of Schools, to the transfer of the Sub-Inspectors from the District Boards to Government service, their pay and allowances being debited to Provincial Revenues from the 1st January 1906, and to larger grants to local Colleges and Schools and for Educational buildings. The increase under *Medical* was due to larger payments of salaries, owing to payment of the arrear pay of the officers of the Indian Medical Service, to the appointment of an additional Health Officer and an expert Engineer for septic tank installation, for revision of the pay of Professors of the Medical College, for larger grants to Hospitals and Dispensaries and for grants to the Jheriah Plague Committee and Purulia Leper Asylum. The increase under *Scientific and other Minor Departments* was due to larger expenditure under veterinary charges and for the expansion of the Agricultural Department, that under *Superannuation* was due to the continued growth of expenditure of retired allowances, while that under *Stationery and Printing* was chiefly under stationery supplied from Central Stores. The increase under *Miscellaneous* was due to a grant of Rs. 10,000 for homeless Indian women, for larger expenditure on purchase of furniture for circuit-houses and for larger expenditure under Special Commissions of Enquiry. The increase under *Working Expenses* of *Irrigation—Major Works* was due to larger expenditure on the upkeep and maintenance of the Orissa and Sone projects, while that under *Minor Works and Navigation* was due chiefly to the purchase of a suction dredger for the Calcutta and Eastern Canals and to increased expenditure on the Magra Hât Drainage Project. The increase under *Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department* was under original works due to a larger number of works having been undertaken during the year, viz. new Nurses'

quarters for the Medical College Hospital, for land charges for a new jail police lines and official residence at Howrah, for land for Police schools and quarters for Government officers at Ranchi and the improvement of Dalhousie Square, Calcutta, and for laying down unfiltered water-pipes on the Calcutta maidan. The increase under *Contributions* from Provincial to Local was due to the special grant of 12½ lakhs for improving the financial position of District Boards specially sanctioned by the Government of India.

Local Finance.

[Report on Local Funds in Bengal for the year 1905-1906.]

523. The following table shows the income, expenditure and opening and closing balances of the Incorporated Local Funds for the year 1905-06:—

Name of Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
District Funds	21,39,891	71 41,696	92,81,587	59,48,427	33,33,160
District Road Funds	1,14,698	2,18,753	3,33,451	1,76,375	1,57,076
Patwari Fund	.....	8,546	8,546	12,218	(—) 3,672
District Post Funds	1,88,987	2,59,447	4,48,434	2,31,579	2,16,855
Inland Labour Transport Fund ...	.....	12,422	12,422	12,422	.....
Steam Boiler Inspection Fund ...	85,121	52,960	1,38,081	47,417	90,664
Village Chaukidari Funds ...	97,115	3,75,553	4,72,668	3,80,692	91,976
Road Patrol Funds	27,481	24,646	52,127	32 447	19,680
District Chaukidari Reward Funds...	48,168	41,879	90,047	29,095	60,952
Total ...	27,01,461	81,35,902	1,08,37,363	68,70,672	39,66,691

The grants made by Government to the District Funds and District Road Funds during the year were Rs. 21,70,563 and Rs. 1,07,898, respectively. The Patwari Fund was brought on the Bengal books from the 16th October 1905, with the accounts of the Sambalpur district transferred from the Central Provinces. The income of the fund was derived chiefly from cesses or contributions from malguzars, and thakederi villages, zamindaris and raiyatwari villages, and the charges were on account of salaries of patwaris, Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Land Records, Revenue Inspectors, and special officers appointed to supervise the working of patwaris, and connected charges. The fund was abolished from the 1st April 1906. The District Post Fund was also abolished from that date. The total payments made in Bengal on account of the Inland Labour Transport Fund amounted to Rs. 29,043, of which Rs. 1,124 were debited to the Central Provinces and Rs. 15,497 to Assam.

The transactions of the Excluded Local Funds were as follows:—

Name of Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
Police Funds.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Railway Police Clothing ...	5,082	4,018	9,100	4,265	4,835
Foundling Asylum	4	3,493	3,497	3,489	8
Fire Brigade	17,514	82,918	1,00,432	83,097	17,335
Calcutta and Suburban Police Superannuation	19,285	49,654	68,939	66,981	1,958
Police Remount	.....	6	6	6	.....
Total ...	41,885	1,40,089	1,81,974	1,57,838	24,136
Marine Funds.					
Hospital Port Dues at Calcutta ...	3,43,016	1,35,134	4,78,150	3,06,767	1,71,383
Orissa Ports (Cuttack, Puri and Balasore)	9,622	17,672	27,294	19,823	7,471
Total ...	3,52,638	1,52,806	5,05,444	3,26,590	1,78,854

Name of Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
Education Funds.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Hindu College	174	5,592	5,766	5,189	577
Durga Charan Laha's	.....	3,360	3,360	3,360	.....
Jagiara	29	700	729	694	35
Total ...	203	9,652	9,855	9,243	612
Medical and Charitable Funds.					
Pilgrims' Lodging-house ...	30,905	80,763	1,11,668	82,562	29,106
Cuttack Annachatra	3,036	12,488	15,524	11,148	4,376
Chuni Lal Seal's Endowment ...	1,330	4,246	5,576	3,280	2,296
Bengal Famine Orphan ...	2,676	992	3,668	2,119	1,549
Ram Lal Mukerjee's Endowment ...	5,784	1,822	7,606	250	7,356
Joy Gobinda Laha's	.....	3,990	3,990	.....	3,990
Imambara Hospital	.....	7,883	7,883	1,854	6,029
Sambalpur Dispensary	955	8,790	9,745	8,701	1,044
Total ...	44,686	1,20,974	1,65,660	1,09,914	55,746
Public Works Funds.					
Darjeeling Improvement ...	35,430	77,500	1,12,930	66,451	46,479
Khondmal Road	6,881	6,789	13,670	10,339	3,331
Total ...	42,311	84,289	1,26,600	76,790	49,810
Miscellaneous Funds.					
Zoological Garden	15,206	1,61,951	1,77,157	1,53,027	24,130
Mohsin Endowment	15,132	1,23,106	1,38,238	1,15,254	22,984
Christian Burial Board	10,307	18,082	28,389	18,764	9,625
Muhammadan Burial Board ...	1,317	1,989	3,306	1,866	1,440
Total ...	41,962	3,05,128	3,47,090	2,88,911	58,179
Cantonment Funds.					
Alipore	394	2,546	2,940	2,647	293
Barrackpore	7,833	40,631	48,464	37,736	10,728
Cuttack	11,551	11,502	23,053	10,572	12,481
Dinapore	6,580	28,257	34,837	34,383	454
Dum-Dum	3,759	19,315	23,074	18,928	4,146
Jalapahar	1,405	6,968	8,373	7,978	395
Lebong	921	7,557	8,478	6,872	1,606
Ranchi (Doranda)	1,498	2,894	4,392	2,447	1,945
Total ...	33,941	1,19,670	1,53,611	1,21,563	32,048
Cantonment Hospital Funds.					
Dinapore	4	4,708	4,712	4,675	37
Dum-Dum	6	2,603	2,609	2,602	7
Jalapahar	.....	2,269	2,269	1,637	632
Total ...	10	9,580	9,590	8,914	676
Town and Bazar Fund.					
Kolhan Market	118	2,030	2,148	1,630	518
Grand Total ...	5,57,754	9,44,218	15,01,972	11,01,393	4,00,579

The Police Remount Fund was brought on the Bengal books along with the accounts of Sambalpur. Its income is derived from subscriptions from mounted police at Re. 1-8 per month, and the sale of cast horses, and its object is to aid the policemen who own horses to provide remounts on occasions when Government does not give compensation for the loss of a horse. The payments of the Hospital Port Dues Fund, Calcutta, included a special contribution of two lakhs to the Presidency General Hospital, of Rs. 25,000 to the Dufferin Hospital, and of Rs. 4,405 to the Hospital Nurses' Institution. The scale of Hospital Port Dues has been reduced from nine pies to six pies with effect from the 1st April 1906.

Rupees 2,000 was added to the invested capital of the Bengal Famine Orphan Fund. The Joy Gobindo Laha's Fund was opened with a capital of one lakh in 4 per cent. Municipal Debentures made over by Babu Joy Gobindo

Laha for the relief of famine-stricken, poor and respectable people in distress owing to inundation, drought, etc., as would not resort to Government relief works. The Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Revenue Department is its administrator. The Imambara Hospital Fund was created by separating the accounts of the Hooghly Imambara Hospital from those of the Mohsin Endowment Fund. The income consists of an annual grant from the latter fund, besides subscriptions, donations and contributions. The receipts of the Khondmal Road Fund include a Government grant of Rs. 4,310, being equivalent to the plough-tax collections of the year 1904-05. The receipts of the Zoological Garden Fund include a special Imperial grant of one lakh received so far back as March 1904, but included in the fund's accounts in 1905-1906. The Muhammadan Burial Board Fund received a grant of Rs. 1,989 from Government, while the Cantonment Funds were relieved of all police charges. Special contributions were made by the Military Department to the following Cantonment Funds:—For conservancy, Alipore, Rs. 1,886, Dum-Dum Rs. 1,370, Jalapahar Rs. 5,204, and Lebong Rs. 5,476; for Hospitals and Dispensaries, Dinapore Rs. 3,000 and Jalapahar Rs. 923. The Cantonment Hospital Funds were chiefly maintained by contributions from Cantonment Funds.

Road and Public Works Cess.

[Report on the Road and Public Works Cess Operations of the Lower Provinces for the official year 1905-1906.]

Rate, land revenue demand and gross rental.

524. Both cesses were levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee in the 30 districts of the Province, as now constituted, in which the Cess Act, IX (B.C.) of 1880, is in force. In the Sonthal Parganas the provisions of the Cess Act were extended by Government notification No. 480R.P., dated the 25th October 1905, to all tracts of the district to which they were not extended by Notifications No. 4782R.P., dated the 21st November 1903, No. 548T.F., dated the 19th May 1904, and No. 998R.P., dated the 14th February 1905. The levy of cesses in this district began for the first time from the beginning of the year, and then only in a few estates of which the settlement had been completed. The Act is not in force in Angul and the Khondmals or in Sambalpur. The current demand of land revenue of the 30 districts was Rs. 2,82,99,982 and the valuation, or gross rental, amounted to Rs. 12,64,57,129. In the subjoined table the demands, collections, balances and remissions of the year are compared with the two preceding years (excluding the statistics of the districts transferred to the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam).

Year.	Demand.			Collections.	Percentage of total collections on current demand.	Balance.	Percentage of the balance on the total demand.	Remissions.
	Current.	Arrear.	Total.					
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
1903-1904 ...	69,09,239	13,45,340	82,54,579	68,35,678	98·9	14,22,112	17·2	69,621
1904-1905 ...	69,49,811	14,12,573	83,62,384	70,06,476	100·8	13,54,082	16·1	57,183
1905-1906 ...	69,55,856	13,50,895	83,06,751	70,59,858	101·4	12,66,104	15·2	69,916

The increase of Rs. 6,045 in the current demand, as compared with the previous year, was due to revaluations. There was an increase in collections by more than half a lakh, and the percentage of collections on the current demand rose from 100·8 to 101·4. The balances were reduced by Rs. 87,978, and the percentage of the balance on the total demand from 16·1 to 15·2. The remissions and reductions which amounted to Rs. 69,916 as against Rs. 57,183 in 1904-1905 were chiefly in the districts of Burdwan, Gaya, Manbhum, Muzaffarpur, Murshidabad, Patna, Hazaribagh and Singhbhum, and call for no special remarks.

Working of the certificate procedure.

525. The total number of certificates filed for the realization of cess arrears was 85,919 as against 81,028 in the previous year. The increase was shared by the Burdwan, Bhagalpur, and Orissa Divisions, while there was a decrease in the Presidency, Patna and Chota Nagpur Divisions. The increase in Burdwan, Midnapore, Hooghly, Murshidabad, Khulna, and Purnea is ascribed to the issue of certificates for the recovery of accumulated petty arrears of cesses to avoid limitation. The system of sending draft certificates for cesses from Hooghly direct to Howrah was adopted during the year under report under the orders of the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces. The change in system is reported to have worked well. In Patna the increase was due to the fact that certificates for the *kist* of January 1905 were mostly instituted in April 1905, while those for the *kist* of January 1906 were practically all instituted before the 31st March 1906. The increase in Saran was due to a large number of estates having defaulted during the first *kist* of the year, which necessitated the issue of numerous certificates. In Monghyr it was chiefly due to an increase in the arrear demand, particularly on account of revenue-free estates, petty arrears of which were allowed to accumulate and were brought under certificate in the year under report. The abnormal increase in Cuttack, where the institutions rose from 2,037 in 1904-1905 to 5,909, was due partly to the filing of certificates for the realization of accumulated petty arrears, and partly to the fact that owing to the incompleteness of Land Registration Register B, which has now been completed, certificates had to be sparingly issued before. No certificates were filed in Darjeeling. In the Sonthal Parganas, where cesses were levied for the first time, 63 certificates were filed for their realization. The disposals exceeded the institutions in the Presidency and Chota Nagpur Divisions.

Objections against certificates.

526. The total number of objections filed and disposed of was 6,052 and 5,890, as against 5,538 and 5,458, respectively, in the previous year. The largest number of objections disposed of occurred in the districts of Shahabad (1,235), Saran (1,011), Burdwan (763), and Gaya (595). In 532 cases as against 609 of 1904-1905, the certificates objected to were cancelled for such reasons as the death or desertion of judgment-debtors, exemption of lands lying within municipal limits, double assessments, non-registration of names of holders of rent-free lands, errors in the Land Registration Registers, and wrong entries in the ledgers. The number of cases in which reductions were made in the amount brought under certificate declined from 167 in 1904-1905 to 144.

Stage of procedure at which demands were satisfied.

527. In 22,110 cases, as against 20,336 in 1904-1905, arrears were recovered on the mere issue of notices, in 33,930 as against 33,327 on the issue of notices for sale of defaulters' moveable properties, and in 14,122 as against 15,246 on the issue of notices for the sale of the defaulters' immoveable properties. Of the total number of sales (2,535 as against 2,417 in 1904-1905), 927 as against 899 in 1904-1905 were set aside under sections 20 and 21 of the Public Demands Recovery Act, I (B.C.) of 1895, as amended by Act I (B.C.) of 1897. The largest number of sales set aside was in the districts of Patna (213), Darbhanga (160), Saran (90), Shahabad (86), Monghyr (79), Muzaffarpur (56), Gaya (54), and Jessore (54).

Valuations and revaluations.

528. There were valuations and revaluations, partial or complete, in 20 out of the 30 districts to which the Act applies. During the year general revaluations were completed in the districts of Hooghly, Champaran and Muzaffarpur. The operations have resulted in an increase over the former cess demand of Rs. 15,375, or 6·8 per cent. in Hooghly, and Rs. 11,543, or 6·6 per cent. in Champaran. In Muzaffarpur there was a decrease of Rs. 2,19,988 in the valuation and of Rs. 13,795 in the cess demand as compared with the last revaluation completed in 1891. This result was anticipated and was due to the preparation of a record-of-rights under the Bengal Tenancy Act. At previous valuations the landlords had filed returns showing rents higher than those which were legally payable.

Separate accounts opened for revenue-paying and revenue-free estates.

529. Three thousand and seventy-nine accounts were opened during the year in revenue-paying estates, and the total number of such accounts at the close of the year was 68,952 with a cess demand of Rs. 12,87,855. In revenue-free estates 86 separate accounts were opened, the total number of such accounts at the close of the year being 1,331 with a cess demand of Rs. 42,380.

530. There was an increase of 2,450 in the number of revenue-paying estates, of 193 in revenue-free estates, of 868 in rent-free lands, of 7,120 in tenures assessed to cesses, and of 7,244 in the number of shareholders of estates. The increase was due to the opening of separate accounts, mutation of names, addition of new estates, partition and assessment of rent-free lands not previously assessed. The number of shareholders of tenures decreased by 1,810. In Hooghly there was a decrease of 13,056 due to revaluation. Estates and tenures and their shareholders.

531. The gross rental shows an increase of Rs. 3,74,20,486 over the original valuation, and of Rs. 6,32,204 over that of the preceding year. The increase, as compared with the previous year, was due to valuations and revaluations. Gross rental.

Municipal Revenue.

See Chapter III—"Municipal Administration."

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

Vital Statistics.

[The Report of the Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal, for the year 1905; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XIII.]

Climatic conditions.

532. Peculiar weather conditions prevailed during the year, namely, very low temperature and excessive rainfall during the premonsoon period, abnormal heat in June, and the early cessation of the monsoon. These conditions were very favourable for the development of plague and malaria during the earlier months of the year, and rendered the last quarter most unhealthy.

Births.

533. These conditions were reflected in the vital statistics. Excluding the district of Angul, to which the system of registration of births and deaths has not yet been extended, and the district of Sambalpur, the statistics of which are not yet available, the number of births registered in the Province was 1,973,301, or 39·55 per mille of population. In 1904, the birth-rate was 42·39 per mille. The value of vital statistics, however, depends upon the accuracy with which they are collected. These are verified by the Inspecting Staff of the Vaccination Department, and the result of their inquiries showed that ·87 and ·72 per cent. respectively of the births and deaths which they checked had not been registered at all. Since the close of the year, the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India has made a number of suggestions for testing the accuracy of vital statistics. These proposals have been approved by the Lieutenant-Governor, and the Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal, has been asked to submit a definite scheme for giving effect to them.

Deaths.

534. Turning to the death-rate it is found that a considerable rise in the general mortality is reported, the number of deaths registered being 1,922,369, or 38·53 per mille, which was the highest rate recorded during the last twenty years. This increase is ascribed by the Sanitary Commissioner and the reporting officers to the greater unhealthiness of the year. The districts of Gaya, Patna, Shahabad, and Saran were the worst sufferers, with death-rates of over 50 per mille; while the healthiest districts were Singhbhum (22·05), Ranchi (25·50), and Manbhum (26·23). Chota Nagpur was, as usual, the healthiest Division, with a death-rate of only 27·72; while the highest mortality occurred in the Patna Division, where a death-rate of 45·86 per mille was recorded.

Infant mortality.

535. The mortality among infants rose from 183·4 per mille of births in 1904 to 208·6 in 1905. Leaflets in the vernacular were prepared by the Sanitary Commissioner containing simple instructions for the rearing and care of infants and also prescribing the diet of Indian mothers after childbirth, and were distributed broadcast through the province. These may in time do good by helping to remove old prejudices and by bringing to the homes of the mass of the people the light of modern ideas. The highest infantile mortality (310 per mille) was, as usual, recorded in Calcutta.

Cholera.

536. The mortality from cholera was the highest recorded since 1901. The deaths from this disease numbered 146,339, giving a ratio of 2·93 per mille against 1·63 in 1904, and 2·77, the quinquennial average. With the exception of the Chota Nagpur Division, which recorded a death-rate from this cause of only ·35 per mille, the whole Province suffered severely, the ravages of the disease being worst in the districts of Gaya (6·63 per mille), Purnea (5·17), Patna (5·00), Shahabad (4·94), Howrah (4·78) and Bhagalpur (4·74). In Puri the cholera mortality rose from ·99 in 1904 to 3·97 in 1905.

Fever.

537. Altogether 1,214,487 deaths were reported from fever, the death-rate from this cause representing a ratio of 24·34 against 20·49 per mille in the preceding year, and accounting for 63·17 per cent. of the total deaths registered from different causes during 1905. The worst affected districts were Shahabad with 37·76 deaths per mille, Nadia 37·30, Gaya 36·28, Purnea 34·67, and Jessore 33·02. In Calcutta the death-rate from fever was only 5·13 per thousand.

The prevalence of malaria in Bengal has for many years engaged the attention of Government and in March 1905 prominent attention was drawn to it by a member of the Legislative Council who asked for the appointment of a Commission or Committee of Enquiry to investigate the causes of death from malaria in Bengal and the remedies to be applied. It is believed that, particularly in the Presidency Division, the main cause of malaria is the obstruction of drainage caused by the gradual rise of the delta, and two important drainage projects have already been determined on in this Division, namely, the Magra Hât scheme in the 24-Parganas and the Bhairab Valley scheme in Jessore. It has now been decided that the whole of the Presidency Division should be examined, and that a list should be prepared of all practicable drainage schemes, so that a definite programme of action may be drawn up. With this object, a small Committee has been appointed, whose duty it will be to ascertain in what areas in the Presidency Division malaria is prevalent, and if the cause of the disease is held to be obstructed drainage, to decide whether a drainage scheme is practicable and to prepare a list of such schemes arranged in order of urgency. The Report of the Committee is to be submitted to Government before the end of March 1907.

538. Compared with 1903-1904 there was an increase in the expenditure incurred by municipal bodies under the heads "Conservancy" and "Drainage" but a falling off under "Water-supply." Considerable activity was displayed by many municipalities in the administration of the various branches of Sanitation. Drainage schemes were under various stages of preparation, and in some cases preliminary survey was being or about to be made; and steps were taken by many towns to improve their water-supply. Sanitary improvements.

539. During the year 1905 the Sanitary Board considered the preliminary estimate of cost of a water-works project for the town of Monghyr and the detailed estimates for the Khulna water-supply scheme. Plans and estimates of drainage schemes in twelve municipalities and of water-supply schemes in two municipalities were also considered. Considerable activity was displayed by several municipalities in the preparation of detailed schemes for surface drainage. The Sanitary Board.

Plague.

540. The mortality from plague was the highest on record since it first broke out in 1898, the total number of deaths being 126,084 against 75,433 in the previous year and 58,225, the average of the last quinquennium. The period of greatest prevalence was, as usual, January to April, but the climax was reached in the month of March, in which month alone 40,090 deaths from plague were returned. General.

541. During 1905 there was an alarming recrudescence of plague in Calcutta, the mortality from which having declined from 8,223 in 1903 to 4,689 in 1904 again rose to 7,372. The disease also increased in virulence. A satisfactory feature of the year's work was the far larger percentage of living cases ascertained. No further action was taken in the direction of the demolition of plague-infected huts. This measure has been abandoned on account of the repeal of the Plague Regulation A, dated the 8th October 1900, which authorised the compulsory demolition of badly infected premises, and the decision of the High Court by which a far higher scale of compensation was awarded to a hut owner than had previously been paid. The cessation of demolitions is not, however, considered a matter for regret, for in the absence of any arrangements for rehousing the dislodged population, the demolition of huts aggravated the evils of overcrowding in the vicinity of the operations. The statistics of the year's work confirm the facts in regard to the small number of houses in which plague infection recurs. Even in the cases of houses where more than one death occurred the infections were generally simultaneous. It is noteworthy that the mortality in kutcha huts was about double that in masonry houses and that such cases as did occur in masonry houses almost always occurred on the ground floor. Little success was attained in the crusade against rats, although various methods of destruction were employed. The question whether it is possible to compel owners of grain godowns to make them rat proof is under the consideration of Government. Little progress was Calcutta.

made with the inoculation of persons against plague as the measure is still unpopular.

Interior.

542. Outside Calcutta 26 districts were more or less affected and the total number of deaths returned were 118,712 against 70,747 in 1904. The disease was most prevalent in the districts of Patna, Gaya, Shahabad, Saran, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Monghyr and Bhagalpur. The highest mortality (35,651) was recorded in the district of Saran. The most conspicuous change in the opinion of experts in India regarding plague is the greatly increased importance now ascribed to the part played by rats in spreading and keeping alive the disease. In fact all the evidence regarding the causation of the disease is now regarded as pointing to the rat as the chief agent in its diffusion. During the year under review rat extermination was carried on in many parts of the province, but notably in the Giridih coal fields and in Behar. The operations were carried on in Jugdispur in the Shahabad district, and though there was a good deal of the disease in Shahabad, Jugdispur enjoyed complete immunity despite the fact that a very large number of people from other badly infected localities came to reside there.

Observation Camps.

543. The only place where plague inspection is maintained in this Province was Siliguri, where 21 passengers were detained during the year. One of these was found to be suffering from bubonic plague, which ended fatally.

Plague precautions in ports.

544. The rules for the examination of vessels leaving the Port of Calcutta were amended by the addition of a rule providing that if after a Bill of Health has been granted to any vessel and before the vessel proceeds to sea any cargo or goods of any kind be placed on or taken off the vessel, she shall not proceed below Diamond Harbour until such further medical examination and disinfection as the Health Officer may consider necessary have been made and a fresh Bill of Health has been given, this second examination and disinfection being conducted on board the vessel.

Emigration.

COLONIAL EMIGRATION.

[Annual Report on Emigration from the Port of Calcutta to British and Foreign Colonies in the year 1905; Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Section XXXV, Emigration.]

Administrative measures.

545. No administrative measures of any importance were adopted by this Government during the year under review. The Governments of Natal and Jamaica, however, amended the laws in those Colonies relating to Indian immigrants. The amendments made are not of sufficient importance to require specific mention. Information was received from the Emigration Agent for Mauritius that the rate of wages payable in the Colony to indentured adult male immigrants had been raised from Rs. 5 rising in five years to Rs. 7, to Rs. 6 rising in five years to Rs. 8.

Depôts and despatch of labour.

546. Seven emigration agencies were at work during the year, of which six represented British Colonies, and one the Dutch Colony of Surinam. The total number of emigrants registered was 15,296, being an increase of 5,010 over the number registered in 1904. The bad harvests and the consequent rise in the price of food-grains in the recruiting districts contributed to this result. As usual, recruitment was most active in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, from which 76·39 per cent. of the emigrants came, Cawnpore, Fyzabad, and Basti supplying the largest number. Fifteen thousand three hundred and fifty-two emigrants were accommodated in sub-depôts during the year, of whom 2,296 were rejected, which was a larger number than in the previous two years. Twelve thousand two hundred and ninety-six persons arrived at the Calcutta depôts, but the number was reduced by rejections, releases, and other causes to 9,943. Of these 9,322 were shipped during the year and 621 were left for subsequent despatch. The figures show an increase in comparison with those for 1904, when 7,451 persons were accommodated in the Calcutta depôts and 7,135 actually took ship to the Colonies. In 1903 the number who embarked was 9,084 and in 1904 it was 10,882. The sanitary arrangements of the depôts at Garden Reach were satisfactory throughout the year, and the intending emigrants were well cared for.

547. The demand for labour increased, 8,157 immigrants being requisitioned as against 7,501 in the previous year. This was partly due to the fact that recruitment for Jamaica, which had been suspended in 1904, was resumed in 1905, 790 emigrants being despatched to that Colony. The number of labourers supplied was 8,933 or 776 more than the demand. This year there was less difficulty in securing labour owing to scarcity in the recruiting districts. The Colonies which received the largest number of emigrants were Demerara (2,605) and Trinidad (2,285). Demand for Labour.

548. The accounts of the Emigration Fund show that the year closed with a surplus balance of Rs. 1,778-11-8. This surplus is due partly to the increase of receipts on account of the larger number of emigrants embarked during the year, and partly to the inclusion in the receipts of the sum of Rs. 3,283-8-5, which represents the unclaimed estates of deceased emigrants. Emigration Fund.

549. During the year 4,703 immigrants returned to India, bringing with them savings amounting in the aggregate to Rs. 8,08,141-2-4, or on an average to Rs. 171-13-4 a head, as compared with Rs. 174-10 a head in the preceding year. It is noteworthy that the percentage of money saved in Trinidad is far in excess of anything saved in any other Colony. One thousand and seventy-eight adults brought back no savings. As in previous years, the labourers in Natal sent the largest remittances by money-order, the total amount so sent being nearly 14 lakhs. Returned immigrants and their savings.

EMIGRATION TO BURMA.

550. The number of State emigrants carried from Bihar to Burma during the year under report was 1,477 (1,150 adults and 327 children) as compared with 421 in the previous year. The increase is remarkable, and is attributed to the fact that the people are only now beginning to realise the advantages of of taking up land in Burma, and to overcome the scruples felt for so many years. The majority of the emigrants were Koiris; but most of the lower castes were represented, and even the Rajput and the Brahman castes. The Managing Agents of the British India Steam Navigation Company report that the arrangements made for the conveyance of the emigrants have worked satisfactorily throughout the year, and that no complaints have been received of emigrants being put to any trouble or inconvenience on the voyage. The conditions of emigration were the same as in the previous year.

Inland Emigration.

[The Reports on Inland Emigration for the year ending the 30th of June 1906 submitted by the Superintendents of Emigration, Calcutta, the Santhal Parganas, Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Palamau, Manbhum, Singhbhum and Sambalpur.]

551. During the year the district of Sambalpur was transferred from the Central Provinces to the jurisdiction of this Government, while the port of embarkation for emigrants at Goalundo and the landing station at Chandpur passed to the control of the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam. Administration

The question of the supply of labour for the tea gardens of Assam having for some time past engaged attention and the special enquiries instituted having demonstrated that the situation in Assam compared unfavourably with that obtaining in other tea-producing tracts of India, both in respect of the relations between employer and employed, and as regards the system of obtaining labour, the Government of India, in a Resolution dated the 20th February 1906, decided that the Assam Labour and Emigration Act (VI of 1901) should be withdrawn from the Surma Valley and the districts of Kamrup and Goalpara, but at the same time considered it undesirable that the withdrawal of the Act should take effect until the questions connected with emigration to the districts of the Upper Assam Valley had been examined and reported on by a Committee. The Government of India appointed a Committee, known as the Assam Labour Enquiry Committee, for this purpose, indicating the points which required investigation. The Committee's report has been received and is now under the consideration of the Government.

It had been brought to the notice of the Government that the inland steamer companies were losing money in carrying emigrants from Cachar and Sylhet by reason of the operation of rule 165 of the rules framed by the Government of Bengal under Act VI of 1901, which required that every steamer authorised to convey emigrants to the labour districts should carry a medical officer. The question having been carefully examined by Government in consultation with the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals and the Superintendent of Emigration, Calcutta, it was decided to amend the rule. Provided that certain conditions are complied with, the most important being to the effect that the principal riverside dispensaries should be subsidised by the steamer companies for the purpose of rendering assistance in case of need, the employment of a medical officer on board steamers proceeding to Cachar and Sylhet is no longer obligatory when the number of emigrants is less than 50.

Inland Labour Transport Fund.

552. The Inland Labour Transport Fund still continues to be in an unsatisfactory condition, although the actual deficit was less than in previous years owing largely to the transfer of the emigration establishments at Goalundo and Chandpur to the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The Government of India, in September 1905, sanctioned the temporary abolition, and have recently consented to the permanent abolition of the post of Travelling Superintendent of Emigration for Bengal and the Central Provinces.

Number of emigrants.

553. During the past year 37,115 emigrants of all classes, recruited from Bengal, Madras and the Central Provinces, embarked at Goalundo and Dhubri as against 22,322 in the previous year. Of this number, 4,765 or 12·84 per cent. were recruited by licensed contractors under Chapter III of the Act, 10,934 or 29·46 per cent. by garden sardars working under Chapter IV of the Act, 1,039 or 2·80 per cent. by specially employed sardars working under sections 90 and 91 and 20,377 or 54·90 per cent. under the system of free recruitment permissible under section 92. There has been an increase in the number of all classes of emigrants, the increase being most marked in the number of emigrants recruited under the free system. In Bengal, excluding Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal Parganas, which are closed to free recruitment, the number of emigrants despatched under section 92 during the year is nearly double what it was in the year 1904-05, while the number recruited under Chapters III and IV is considerably less, the variation being apparently due to the fact that recruiters find it easier and more profitable to carry on business under the free system. As regards the district of Sambalpur, the decline in the number of emigrants registered under Chapters III and IV is attributed to the extraordinary growth of free recruitment in the adjoining Native States which offer better inducement as recruiting grounds. In Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal Parganas, however, in spite of the number who are believed to be taken outside those areas and recruited under the free system by a fraud upon the law, to which they themselves may or may not be parties, there has been an increase in the number of emigrants recruited under the provisions of Chapters III and IV and sections 90 and 91 of the Act. This result is attributed to bad crops and the exceptionally high price of food-grains.

Medical Institutions.

[Notes on the Annual Returns of the Charitable Dispensaries under the Government of Bengal and the Calcutta Medical Institutions for 1905; Judicial and Administration Statistics of British India, Section XIV.]

General.

554. The remodelling and modernisation of the important General Hospitals in Calcutta are progressing. Much has already been done to improve the equipment, comforts and conveniences of the patients. The nursing arrangements were generally satisfactory. The Principal, Medical College, complains, however, of the insufficiency of the staff which will now have to be raised to meet adequately the increased requirements of the hospital as a whole.

Calcutta Medical Institutions.

Institutions. Accommodation and attendance.

555. The number of public institutions in operation was the same as in 1904, viz., 17. There were treated 27,836 indoor and 268,792 outdoor patients against 26,554 and 272,161 respectively in the previous year. The increase

in the number of house patients is shared by most of the institutions where this class of patient is treated, and was no doubt influenced by the unhealthiness of the year under review as compared with the previous year, the death-rate among the general population in Calcutta and Howrah having been 37·9 and 47·13 per mille, respectively, against 32·2 and 38·71 in 1904. A larger number of small-pox cases was admitted into the special wards of this institution in 1905, the disease having broken out in an epidemic form in the city towards the latter part of the year, and from which the people are still suffering. At the Police Hospital there was an excess of 484 patients, the principal cause of which was mumps, which affected a large number of new recruits.

The outdoor attendance shows an apparent decrease of 3,369 patients, but this was due to the incorrectness of figures for 1904 supplied by the Kidderpore Dockyard Dispensary, where all old cases were included among the new patients, which has not been repeated in 1905. As a matter of fact the attendance increased in the majority of the institutions, a result which is not only in agreement with the conditions of things outside or among the general population, but also testifies to the greater appreciation by the people of the benefits they are imparting. By far the largest accession, viz. 4,185 patients, took place at the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital, which is rapidly growing in popularity.

Small-pox, cholera, plague, dysentery and diarrhœa were all prevalent in Calcutta in 1905. The numbers treated for these affections in hospitals also increased, being 115,668,554 and 14,856, against 21,641,328 and 14,515, respectively, in 1904. There were fewer deaths in the city from "fever" in 1905, but excluding the figures of the Kidderpore Dockyard Dispensary, the number of patients treated for "malarial fevers" was greater in 1905 than in the previous year, 44,504 against 44,018 in 1904. The most important increases in this respect occurred in the Campbell Hospital (1,141) and Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital (556). Admissions from enteric and remittent fevers were also more numerous in 1905 than in the previous year.

Income.

556. The totlal income, excluding the figures for the Police Hospital and the Dockyard Dispensary, amounted to Rs. 11,79,702 against Rs. 13,67,400 in the previous year. Government was the chief contributor, having paid 73·97 per cent., against Rs. 9,89,825, or 74·15 per cent. in the previous year. These sums include the cost of buildings borne by it, which was much heavier in 1904 owing chiefly to extensions and improvements at the Medical College Hospital. Receipts from paying patients diminished from Rs. 92,877 in 1904 to Rs. 89,404 in 1905. Subscriptions from Europeans and natives amounted to Rs. 10,951, against Rs. 48,689 in 1904. The latter amount was of an exceptional nature, consisting of legacies and special donations. The amount contributed by Europeans as regular subscriptions was very small, while the amount paid by natives was deplorably so, being only Rs. 1,969 in 1905.

CHARITABLE DISPENSARIES OUTSIDE CALCUTTA.

Number of Dispensaries.

557. Sixteen new dispensaries were opened in 1905, seven maintained by District Boards and one by a Municipality and three private dispensaries. Besides these, 12 dispensaries, 9 private and 3 Railway not under Government supervision, furnished annual returns for the past year. Against these additions 12 dispensaries were shown as closed, 2 female hospitals at Purnea and Ranchi amalgamated with the Sadar hospitals, 2 Mission dispensaries, the authorities of which declined to submit returns in the prescribed simple form, 5 Railway dispensaries were abolished and 3 were actually closed. The net result of the year under review was an addition of 16 dispensaries. The 16 new dispensaries opened in 1905 are distributed as follows:—3 each in the Sonthal Parganas and Burdwan districts, 2 each in Bhagalpur, Darbhanga and Manbhum, and 1 each in Midnapore, Serampore, Purnea and Singhbhum.

Number of patients.

558. The total number of in-patients, excluding those treated in the dispensaries in the 15 transferred districts, but including the figures of the dispensaries in Sambalpur, was 57,361 against 52,576 in 1904, an increase of 4,785. Of this, only 815 are credited to the new dispensaries mentioned before. The unhealthiness of the year under review was the

chief cause of the increase. There are also evidences of the greater popularity of the institutions.

Out-door patients numbered 3,672,114, or an increase of 392,858, or 11·98 per cent. over the figures of the previous year, which were 3,279,256. Of this increase, which was fairly general, having been shared by 28 districts, 90,798 are accounted for by the new institutions, the balance being largely due to the unhealthiness of the year, and also, in a great measure, to the increased confidence of the people in the medical charities which have been in the past few years much improved in general management and efficiency, results which are creditable to all concerned. As an instance of a most successful out-door department, the Bunwari Lal Hospital at Laheria Serai again heads the list with 62,977 admissions against 58,171 in 1904.

Unhealthiness of the year.

559. The year under review was very unhealthy owing to heavy rainfall, which was 63·91 inches against 58·12 in 1904. The death-rate per mille among the general population was 38·54 against 30·65 in the previous year. Malarial fevers were very prevalent, accounting for the largest number of admissions, viz., 915,410 against 768,114 in 1904, the proportion to the total treated being 24·54 and 23·05 per cent., respectively. In 1904 cholera was also prevalent among the general population, causing 144,016 deaths, against 79,407 in the previous year. Small-pox was less common than in 1904. Bowel-complaints were, however, more frequent, the numbers treated being 177,885 against 148,562 in the previous year. Plague caused 118,712 deaths in the Province against 70,744 in 1904. A large number of sufferers from this disease applied for relief in public hospitals in 1905, viz., 3,034 against 1,642 in 1904. This fact justifies the view that the hospitals have much gained in popularity.

Female patients.

560. The chief feature of this return is the larger number of women who sought relief at the dispensaries in classes I, III and IV in 1905, being 429,626 against 396,266 in 1904, and taking the numbers treated in dispensaries in all classes the increase was 82,504 or 11·19 per cent., the figures being 819,167 against 736,663, which must be credited to the several measures adopted in this Province tending to popularise public dispensaries amongst females. Males increased by 12·67 per cent. and children by 10·24 per cent. in 1905.

Income and expenditure.

561. The total income of dispensaries was Rs. 11,09,065 against Rs. 9,11,091 in 1904, Government contributing Rs. 2,18,296 or 19·67 per cent. and Rs. 85,927 or 9·43, respectively. The increase in Government contribution in 1905 was chiefly due to special grants for buildings to the dispensaries at Kurseong Rs. 50,000, Muzaffarpur Rs. 25,000, Cossipore Rs. 12,093, Bhagalpur Rs. 10,000, Jessore Rs. 5,000, and Burdwan Rs. 4,276. Besides these, a grant towards the maintenance of the Bankipore Hospital Rs. 10,000, and Rs. 13,365 to 18 dispensaries for equipment, were also given in 1905. Payments made by Municipalities amounted to Rs. 1,89,696 against Rs. 1,84,841 in 1904. Subscriptions from Europeans amounted to Rs. 34,213 against Rs. 29,276 in 1904.

The total expenditure for the year was Rs. 8,69,075 against Rs. 7,31,791 in 1904, the increase being chiefly due to larger outlay on buildings and general equipment of dispensaries, as well as to the establishment of new dispensaries. The expenditure on European and bazar medicines rose from Rs. 1,24,132 to Rs. 1,58,043 in 1905. It is satisfactory that a larger amount, viz., Rs. 14,880 against Rs. 9,883, was spent on febrifuges needed for the treatment of a large accession of malarial fever cases in the year under report.

Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling.

[Report on the Eden Sanitarium and Hospital, 1905]

Number of admissions.

562. The total number of patients, including their friends, admitted in the institution during the year under review was 460 against 459 in the previous year. The number of patients only was 305 against 321 in 1904. Since 1901 the number of patients has been gradually declining, but no reason has been assigned by the Superintendent for this decrease. It may be due to recent improvements in communications with other hill stations, where the climate is drier than that of Darjeeling. It remains now to be seen whether the

transfer of certain neighbouring districts to Eastern Bengal and Assam will further affect the attendance at the Eden Sanitarium this year. Of the total number of patients treated, 139, or nearly 46 per cent., were suffering from debility and anæmia. There were 4 cases of enteric fever against 7 in the previous year. The number of deaths during the year under report far exceeded that of the previous year, viz., 20 against 4. This is ascribed to the fact that the institution is gradually becoming more of a hospital than sanitarium, and this is further borne out by the fact that the total number of operations performed was 63 against 30 in 1904.

563. Excluding the cost of lighting realized from patients and fees received on account of nurses, the income of the institution was Rs. 40,367-11 as compared with Rs. 42,929-7-6 in the previous year. The decrease is due to less receipts from patients in the intermediate and second classes. The total expenditure during the year under report was Rs. 43,849-1-11 against Rs. 41,832 in the previous year. Thus, there was a deficit of Rs. 3,481-6-11 against a surplus of Rs. 1,097-7-7 in 1904. Although the daily average sick was practically the same as last year, the cost of fuel and lighting was Rs. 897-10-3 more. No explanation has been offered by the Superintendent to account for this. The daily average cost of diet was Re. 1-9-6 against Re. 1-7-4 in 1904, the scale of diet for inmates having been revised and improved during the year. Many useful improvements were effected during the year, and the new nurses' quarters sanctioned last year will be taken in hand shortly. Funds.

Lunatic Asylums.

[The Triennial Report on the Lunatic Asylums in Bengal for the years 1903, 1904 and 1905; Judicial and Administration Statistics of British India, Section XV.]

564. The three years which have elapsed since the submission of the last Triennial Report were marked by the conception and progress of the scheme for the establishment at Ranchi of a large Central Asylum. It was originally intended that the proposed Central Asylum should be established at Berhampore, and the construction of new buildings was taken in hand there, but the proposal was abandoned, and it was decided, with the previous approval of the Government of India, to make over the asylum buildings at Berhampore to the Jail Department, which was prepared to utilise them as a Central Jail, and to proceed with the construction of the new Central Asylum at Ranchi. Land has already been acquired at Ranchi, and the plans and estimates of the buildings to be erected are now under the consideration of Government. The Central Asylum will be under the management and supervision of an expert as Superintendent, and the Government of India have been asked to depute an officer possessing the necessary qualifications. Meanwhile, pending the construction of the buildings at Ranchi, all the asylums in the Province are, as far as possible, being amalgamated at Berhampore, where the enlarged buildings afford increased accommodation, and the lunatics at the Dullunda and Cuttack Asylums have already been transferred to that asylum. The buildings at Dullunda have been utilised for the Form Stores of this Government, and those at Cuttack will be made over to the Jail Department for the extension of the jail. It was also intended that the lunatics from the Patna Asylum should be transferred to Berhampore, but the existing buildings were not sufficient for their accommodation, and in view of the approaching transfer of the Central Asylum to Ranchi, it was considered unnecessary to incur additional expenditure in erecting buildings for their accommodation. As the result of the formation of the new Province, the asylum at Dacca was brought under the control of the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Eastern Bengal and Assam, from the 16th October 1905. Changes in the administration of Asylums.

In connection with the proposal to locate the new Central Asylum at Ranchi, it has been suggested that a Central Asylum for the reception of the European lunatics of Northern India should also be established there. The Government of India have consulted the other Local Governments concerned on this proposal, and the matter is still under consideration.

565. There is an evident tendency for the asylum population to increase, the admissions growing in number year by year, while discharges remain Population.

more or less stationary. This is ascribed mainly to two causes, firstly, the greater confidence now felt in these institutions, and secondly, the fact that the public generally are becoming more unwilling to support incapable relatives. It is improbable, however, that the second cause has actually produced much effect upon the figures, as the non-criminal lunatics admitted to asylums in Bengal are in most cases sent up by the Police, and are usually destitute and without friends or relatives. In 1904 the number of admissions was 228—the largest number admitted in any year. The drop to 195 in 1905 is chiefly due to the transfer of certain districts to the new Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The total asylum population for 1905 was 1,060.

Health and mortality.

566. The number of daily average sick in the asylums rose from 36·76 in 1902 to 70·01 in 1905, the daily average for the intervening years being 41·92 and 54·53. The marked increase in 1905 is reported to have been chiefly confined to the Berhampore Asylum, where fevers and phthisis were common; but many of the admissions were apparently due to trivial complaints, and the increase does not demand special attention. The average death-rate in the asylums dealt with in this review during the triennium was 103 per mille against 86 in the previous triennium, but it is satisfactory to find that the death-rate of 116 per mille in 1903 fell to 100 in 1904 and declined still further to 91 in 1905: the chief causes were tuberculosis, dysentery and diarrhœa. As the Inspector-General points out, the mortality rate for the Bengal asylums in 1905 compares favourably with that recorded for the County and Borough asylums in England, where the average of the ten years 1895—1904 was 101 per mille. The average death-rate of the Bengal asylums during the ten years ending in 1903 was only 93 per mille.

Expenditure and receipts.

567. The expenditure on all the asylums averaged Rs. 1,09,742 a year, and the average annual income from paying patients was Rs. 14,191, while the net receipts from manufactures averaged Rs. 3,728. The mean cost for European lunatics was Rs. 376, and for native lunatics Rs. 106. The average cost per lunatic on account of diet fell from Rs. 49-7-5 in 1903 to Rs. 47-10-9 in 1905.

Sanitation.

[Report of the Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal, 1905.]

Sanitary works executed in towns and rural areas.

568. During the year various sanitary works were carried out in different parts of the Province by Municipalities, District Boards, Government and private individuals, the following being the most important, each costing Rs. 5,000 or more:—

(1) Rishra *busti* in Serampore, which belongs to Government, was further improved at a cost of Rs. 25,099.

(2) The engine-house at Serampore, in connection with the Howrah Water-works, was extended at a cost of Rs. 77,744.

(3) A *pucca* market for the sale of mutton was constructed by the Howrah Municipality at a cost of Rs. 16,146.

(4) Land has been acquired by the Garden Reach Municipality for trenching ground at a cost of Rs. 6,100.

(5) The filtered water-supply in Titaghur Municipality was further extended at a cost of Rs. 13,112.

(6) Pipes were laid in the Garulia Municipality for supplying filtered water at a cost of Rs. 5,045.

(7) The Kharda khal was further improved by the District Board of 24-Parganas at a cost of Rs. 9,212.

(8) Two tanks were filled up by Government in their estate called "Addyagunga Jhil" at a cost of Rs. 5,000.

(9) Filtered water-supply pipes were extended and additional hydrants put up by the Maniktala Municipality at a cost of Rs. 5,043.

(10) A new hospital building was constructed at Patna at a cost of Rs. 7,022.

(11) Drains were constructed in the Gaya town at a cost of Rs. 15,584, the charge being defrayed from the Lodging-house Fund.

(12) A municipal market named "Bourdillon Market" was under construction at Chapra at an estimated cost of Rs. 20,000.

(13) A rest-house for pilgrims was constructed at Puri by Babu Kanai Lal Bugla at a cost of Rs. 35,000.

(14) Pipes were laid and hydrants put up in Daltongunge for the supply of filtered water at a cost of Rs. 15,715, which was raised by public subscription, the Municipality paying only Rs. 560.

Village sanitation.

569. The sanitary works done by the different District Boards consist of preventive measures against plague, cholera and other epidemic diseases, sanitary arrangements at fairs and *melas*, and improvement of village sanitation by clearance of jungle, excavation of roadside drains and filling up of hollows containing stagnant water. During the past four years the Patna District Board has been systematically taking steps for cleansing villages and rural towns by the removal of filth and rank vegetation, the filling up of ditches and the like.

Sanitary and Medical precautions at fairs and religious festivals.

570. Sanitary and medical precautions were, as usual, taken at all important fairs and religious festivals held during 1905 in different parts of the Province. In Puri these measures were attended with satisfactory results. During the cholera epidemic after the *Rath Jatra* festival, though there was a large number of pilgrims present in the town, only three cases were reported from the lodging-houses, all the others occurring in private residences. At the Sonepore fair, which was attended by about five lakhs of people, cholera broke out seriously and the fair had to be closed in consequence. Many who had caught the disease at the fair carried it far and wide and thus spread it into adjoining districts. At Santipore and Nadia there was a large gathering of pilgrims from different parts of the Province during the *Rath Jatra* festival, and notwithstanding the adoption of the usual precautionary measures a few cases of cholera occurred in them. This the Civil Surgeon reported had much to do with the spread of the disease in different parts of the district. No such mishap was however reported from any other fair.

Vaccination.

[Short Notes on Vaccination for the year 1905-1906; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XVI.]

Strength of Staff.

571. Owing to the partition of Bengal, the staff has been reduced. During the year under report, it consisted of 1 Assistant Surgeon, Inspector in charge of the Animal Vaccination Depôt, Calcutta, 1 Inspector in charge of the Darjeeling Animal Vaccination Depôt, 1 Special Inspector of Vaccination for the suburbs of Calcutta and the town of Howrah, 32 District Inspectors, 2 native Superintendents of Vaccination in the Sambalpur district, 101 Sub-Inspectors of Vaccination, 15 vaccinators paid by Government, 257 paid by Municipalities and District Boards, etc., 1,532 licensed vaccinators, and 24 subordinate Supervising officers paid by Municipalities and Native States. In the Calcutta Municipality the staff was the same as last year. But 20 temporary vaccinators were employed to cope with the increased work, due to the outbreak of the small-pox epidemic in the town.

Work done during the year.

572. The total number of operations performed in the Province during the year was 2,041,230 against 1,818,231 in the previous year. The number of primary and re-vaccination cases was 1,904,625 and 136,605, respectively, against 1,759,124 and 59,107, respectively, in 1904-05. Altogether there was an increase of 222,999 operations, 145,501 in primary cases and 77,498 in re-vaccination, which is satisfactory. The large increase in re-vaccination is chiefly due to the special efforts made by the Corporation of Calcutta to re-vaccinate as many persons as possible, owing to the late severe outbreak of small-pox in that town.

The ratio of success under the two different heads in rural areas and Municipalities was 99·16 and 66·63 and 98·38 and 65·17, respectively, against 99 and 56·58 and 98·09 and 62·85, respectively, of 1904-05.

Out of the 33 districts of Bengal, including the Tributary States of Orissa and excluding the district of Sambalpur, of which the figures for the last year are not available, there was an increase of operations in 23 districts, whereas a decrease occurred only in 10 districts.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

The good results of the reforms lately introduced into the Department have already begun to be felt. The system of granting rewards to vaccinators has already stimulated the vaccinators of some districts to greater activity in their work, and complaints about non-realization of fees by vaccinators are becoming less frequent. It is hoped that after the schemes recently sanctioned by Government with regard to the education of vaccinators and the general substitution of prepared lymph for arm-to-arm vaccination are brought into operation, which will be shortly, much improvement will be effected. Antiseptic vaccination has already produced good results in the districts where it has been introduced, and now that a regular system of training will be given to the vaccinators, it will be desirable to introduce it generally in the Province.

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

General System of Public Instruction.

See—
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II, PAGES 306—314.

Education.

[Report on Public Instruction in Bengal for 1905-1906, Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section X.]

Inspecting agency and professorial staff.

573. A scheme was sanctioned by His Majesty's Secretary of State during the year for considerably strengthening the inspecting agency. When funds permit of the scheme being brought into operation, a much needed relief will be afforded. There remains, however, the equally important need of a large increase to the professorial staff of the colleges. This is a subject on which the Commission recently appointed by the Calcutta University to inspect colleges has laid special stress. At present the staff is so inadequate that it is scarcely possible to carry on the administration. This matter will shortly be made the subject of a representation to Government. More female inspecting agents also are required. The staff has lately been increased by the appointment of three additional Assistant Inspectresses, but more are urgently required. The appointment of an additional Inspectress is also under consideration.

Provincial, Subordinate and Lower Subordinate Educational Services.

574. The sanction of His Majesty's Secretary of State was received during the year to a scheme for the reorganisation of the Provincial and Subordinate Educational Services and the creation of a Lower Subordinate Educational Service. The pay and prospects of all officers of these services have been considerably improved by this measure, which will undoubtedly make for greater efficiency.

The Calcutta University and Collegiate Education.

575. The preparation of the new regulations under the Indian Universities' Act, 1904, and the inspection of arts colleges by the Commission referred to above were the two most important events of the year. Inasmuch as the University was unable to submit the new regulations to the Government of India in a complete form before the close of the year, the final stages of the work were entrusted to a Special Committee appointed by that Government. The regulations were approved by the Government of India on the 11th August 1906. They will doubtless make greater demands upon students than those previously in force. Hence it is essential that the interests of poor scholars should be safeguarded by the provision of an adequate number of scholarships of a sufficient value. This subject will be carefully borne in mind.

The Presidency College.

576. The Presidency College, which is considerably the largest, and, according to the Commission, in certain respects by far the best equipped college in Calcutta, is seriously overcrowded; and in the opinion of the Commission either the number must be reduced or the college must be enlarged or rebuilt on a more open site. The scientific departments of this college suffer in particular owing to the want of space, while the department of chemistry is also reported to suffer from the dust and dirt of the neighbourhood. It is further reported that important groups of magnetic and electrical measurements cannot be made within an area surrounded by electric trams, and that therefore the use of such instruments cannot be taught to

students. Proposals are now under consideration either for largely extending the college on its present site or removing it to another site in the neighbourhood of Calcutta.

Secondary Education for Indian Boys.

577. The number of secondary schools declined by 8, while that of pupils attending them increased by 2,422. The decline in the number of schools chiefly concerns middle vernacular schools, and is mainly to be ascribed to the smaller value which attaches year by year to a purely vernacular education. In years gone by a middle vernacular pass qualified a student for admission to Medical and Survey Schools and to the Mukhtiyarship examination. This is no longer the case.

Special instruction.

578. Special instruction is given at selected secondary schools in subjects leading up to an industrial, commercial or agricultural career. These classes are still in the experimental stage and have not hitherto proved successful. They require careful fostering. Special arrangements are being made for their supervision by persons who have some special knowledge of these subjects, and it is hoped that in this way these classes will receive a fresh impetus.

Primary Education for Indian Boys.

579. The increase in the number of schools and scholars by 1·1 *per cent.* and 2·1 *per cent.* respectively is undoubtedly a matter for congratulation. Such a result could scarcely be looked for in view of the fact that the policy, very properly followed in recent years, has been to demand an increased standard of efficiency before putting a school on the aided or stipendiary list. Further advance may now be reasonably anticipated.

Training colleges and schools for Indian teachers.

580. During the year under review His Majesty's Secretary of State accorded his approval to a scheme for the training of teachers who impart instruction through the medium of English. The establishment of training colleges for such teachers is one of the prime needs of the Province.

Professional and Technical Education.

581. During the year under review classes for students who intend to take up mining as a profession were inaugurated. These classes have been opened under a Professor of Mining recruited from the University of Birmingham, which is considered to be one of the best, if not the best, centre of mining instruction in England. Further, another Professor has been appointed to instruct persons actually engaged in the mining industry; and four centres of instruction have been selected—two in the Raniganj and two in the Jheria coal-fields. It may also be mentioned that in addition to the schemes referred to above, a certain number of students from Bengal are each year being sent by the Government of India to go through a course of mining instruction at the Birmingham University. Four such students were sent home in the year 1904 and two in the year 1905.

The new scheme of Commercial education.

582. A new scheme of Commercial Education, which was elaborated in consultation with the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, was inaugurated at the Presidency College on the 1st July 1905. The scheme consists of two parts, the one comprising a day course, every part of which is obligatory, extending over a period of two years and the other a series of evening lectures on certain subjects, any one or more of which may be selected at option. It is too early yet to judge how far this scheme will prove effective and adequate. The day course is the principal one; and, and as stated above, it extends over two years. The first examination of students under the new scheme for the day course will therefore not take place till April 1907. The evening classes have hitherto not proved a success, and in fact it is doubtful whether in this climate such classes can be expected to achieve results such as are obtained in Europe. The immediate need in respect of these classes is to remove them from the Presidency College, where they are cramped for room, to the business part of the city. It is unreasonable to expect business men after a long day's work to travel any considerable distance for the purpose of attending the evening classes.

The Serampore Weaving School.

583. The Government of India have sanctioned the opening of a Weaving School at Serampore. The object of the scheme is, firstly, to bring home to the ordinary artisans the latest improvements in respect of weaving apparatus, and, after supplying them with the necessary instruction, to give them advances of money in order to enable them to purchase the necessary apparatus; and, secondly, to train up higher class students with the object of enabling them

to become teachers of improved methods in outlying centres or to start businesses of their own in the weaving line.

Industrial Schools.

584. These schools increased during the year from 30 to 41. There is a great opening here for development, but no substantial results can be expected until a special officer is appointed to have charge of all the technical and industrial schools.

European education.

585. Judged by the results of the year under review, European education in the Province, except in the case of a few superior schools, cannot be considered to be satisfactory. Of the 74 candidates who entered for the High School Examination, 20, or 27 *per cent.* only passed. Of 81 candidates who entered for the Middle School Examination 14, or 17·2 *per cent.* only were successful. Still more significant perhaps is it that out of 49 boys who, having completed their school education, were sent up for the Middle School examination before being sent out into the world, only 5, or 10·2 *per cent.*, were able to pass. Some of the leading schools of the Province are still struggling under a burden of debt which makes any real progress impossible. Many are working in buildings which are admittedly quite unsuitable, while all practically are striving to accomplish tasks for the performance of which their resources are inadequate. Proposals for revised courses of study, approved by a representative conference of school managers, teachers and others interested in European education, have already been submitted to Government. In order, however, to give a sound education on the revised lines better qualified teachers are required, and in this respect the Government of India has already begun to make special provision for European education. Gradually the circumstances of each school will be systematically overhauled, and such assistance as is required will be given in order to enable it to work up to a higher standard.

Muhammadan education.

586. It is very satisfactory that the reaction in Muhammadan education reported last year has been arrested. In the years 1902-1903 and 1903-1904 the increase in the number of Muhammadans attending all classes of educational institutions was 5·8 and 11·7 *per cent.*, respectively, and a hope was expressed that a real and lasting awakening had occurred on the part of the Muhammadan community to the advantages of education. In the year 1904-1905, however, there was a sudden decline of 3 1 *per cent.* The increase in the year under review of 3·0 *per cent.* is therefore encouraging. A further impetus may also be anticipated in the near future because a scheme for bringing under the grant-in aid system the indigenous Muhammadan primary schools which exist throughout the Province is now being brought into full operation. These schools will be aided on condition that they conform to simple departmental standards.

Reformatory Schools.

587. The most satisfactory feature of the year's working was the marked improvement in respect of discipline and conduct in the reformatory schools. There is no doubt that this result is due to the policy laid down by Government that the boys are to be treated as if they were at school and not as if they were in jail. In pursuance of this humane and civilising policy, many important reforms are now in process of development. The chief of these are a project for the removal of the Alipore Reformatory School from its present site near the Alipore Jail to a site in the suburbs, where there will be no jail associations and where there will be plenty of room for playgrounds; the development of the industrial training given at the schools, and especially at the Alipore School, on more advanced and scientific lines; an improved and more conciliatory system of watch over discharged boys; and last, but certainly not least, a proposal to replace, as far as possible, the present illiterate guards by resident teachers qualified to influence the lives of the boys for good.

Hostels and Messes for Indian Students.

588. A strong forward movement is being made in regard to the provision of hostel and mess accommodation for students of all classes. Both in Calcutta and in the Mufassal steps have been taken by Government to provide students, who do not live with their parents or guardians, with some kind of residence under supervision. The number of hostels increased from 310 to 377, the number of inmates from 9,478 to 11,424 and the expenditure from Rs. 3,24,457 to Rs. 3,77,403. All this is satisfactory, and it is also satisfactory that the bulk of the money expended, viz. Rs. 3,36,122, came from private sources.

Reformatory Schools.

[Annual Report on the Reformatory Schools at Alipore and Hazaribagh for the year 1905; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XI.]

Number of boys admitted.

589. The number of boys admitted to the Reformatory Schools in 1905 was 95, the lowest figure reached since 1898. In accordance with the instructions issued by the Bengal Government in 1901, the Boards of Management examined the lists of admission, with a view to ascertain whether there were any cases in which boys might have been more suitably dealt with if they had been discharged on probation of good conduct under section 562 of the Criminal Procedure Code, or after due admonition under section 31 of the Reformatory Schools Act, VIII of 1897. The result of this scrutiny was that 9 boys were discharged under the orders of Government from the Alipore School, and one from the Hazaribagh School.

Health of inmates.

590. The health of the inmates of the Reformatories was satisfactory. The number of boys admitted to hospital at the Alipore School was about the same as in 1904. At the Hazaribagh School the number rose from 86 in 1904 to 110 in 1905. The complaints, however, from which the boys suffered were mostly of a trivial character.

Punishments.

591. There was a marked decrease in the number of punishments inflicted, especially at Alipore, where the number fell from 107 to 52. There was no remarkable increase or decrease in the number of marks obtained by the boys for good conduct and industry, and their average earnings were much the same as in 1904. Due attention was paid to gymnastics, drill and games at both schools, and the band, which was formed at Alipore in July 1905, has made fair progress.

At both Reformatories considerable attention was paid to education, and the boys were taught up to the Lower Primary and Upper Primary standards. At Hazaribagh 20 boys reached the Lower and 13 the Upper Primary standard; at Alipore the numbers were respectively 9 and 5. The Director of Public Instruction has been requested to report the result of his enquiries into the causes of this comparative failure at Alipore.

Industries.

592. In accordance with established policy boys of the agricultural castes were sent to Hazaribagh, where attention is chiefly paid to the subjects of cultivation and market gardening. Of the 129 boys in this school, 64 were engaged in these pursuits. The results of the system appear to be satisfactory. Of 128 boys, released during the three years preceding the year under review, who had been trained to agriculture, as many as 81 were found to be following that calling after their discharge.

Industrial training has not been so successful, and the question will receive further consideration with a view to the introduction of any changes which may appear necessary. Out of 210 boys released during the three years preceding 1905, who had been taught a trade, only 25 were found to be engaged in the trade in which they had received instruction at school. Of the total number of boys released during the same period (338), no less than 65 were untraced. The efforts made to keep a watch over discharged boys were therefore unsuccessful to this extent. In 1905 the total number of boys under license from the Alipore School was 71. Of these, 11 ran away from their employers and 11 were sent back to school for bad conduct and laziness. The number of boys licensed from Hazaribagh was 34, of whom 8 returned to school.

Literature and the Press.

Bengal Library.

593. The number of publications received and catalogued in the Bengal Library during 1905 was 2,800 against 3,054 in the year before, showing a decrease of about 8·3 *per cent.* Of these 1,836 were books and 964 periodicals. Of the books, 1,615 were original publications and 221 republications and translations. Of the publications received, 18 were catalogued under the head of "Art," 22 under "Biography," 85 under "Drama," 114 under "Fiction," 62 under "History and Geography," 332 under "Language," 77 under "Law," 141 under "Medical," 992 under "Miscellaneous," 16 under "Philosophy," 190 under "Poetry," 6 under "Politics," 669 under "Religion," 72 under "Science," and 4 under "Travels."

Literature of the year.

594. The literature of the year clearly indicates the fact that political, social and industrial questions are those which are attracting the best talent of the Province at the present time, and that the spirit of journalism prevades all branches of literature. Thus, while the field of Art remains untraversed, the industrial awakening of the people finds expression in two works of interest, one of which, viz., *Hand-loom weaving in India*, by Mr. Havell, has attracted a wide circle of readers. In the domain of the Drama, the revolt against social customs which operate hardly on the weaker sex and the irrational adoption of little-understood Western manners and customs, are exemplified; while in a short play entitled *The Dismemberment of Bengal*, by Babu Amarendra Nath Datta, students and others are portrayed as vowing to observe mourning for a period of twelve years, and during that time to do all in their power to foster indigenous arts and manufactures. The partition of Bengal and the *swadeshi* movement also bulk largely in miscellaneous songs and in periodicals. The higher and quieter walks of literature have in a large measure been deserted in favour of the noisy ways of politics. The year has not, however, been entirely devoid of literary work of a less ephemeral character. Thus in the domain of Fiction, we have two novels, entitled *Amaravati* and *Lalit Mohan*, by the well-known editor of the *Bhagavadgita*, Babu Damodar Mukerji, illustrating the chastening influence exercised by high ideals in practical life, and an historical novel, entitled *Yogarani*, by Babu Surendra Nath Bhattacharyya, giving a vivid picture of Moslem misrule in Bengal in the time of Murshid Kuli Khan, the Nawab of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. Of historical works, there are three of some importance, viz. (1) *Raja Sitaram Ray*, by Babu Yadu Nath Bhattacharyya; (2) *The Musnad of Murshidabad*, by Babu Purna Chandra Mazumdar; and (3) *The Early History and Growth of Calcutta*, by Raja Vinaya Krishna Dev. The first is an account of the life and achievements of the Bengali zamindar, Sitaram, who rebelled against the power of Murshid Kuli Khan; the second a synopsis of the history of Murshidabad for the last two centuries; and the third an interesting history of Calcutta, which is marked by a sympathetic appreciation of the benefits of British rule. Among *Miscellaneous* writings, there are three which are remarkable, viz. (1) *Palli Vaichitra* (Humours of Village Life), by Babu Devendra Kumar Ray; (2) *Prabandha Manjari* (Essay Blossoms), by Babu Jyotirindra Nath Thakur; (3) and *Veda Prakasika* (Illuminator of the Vedas), by the late Mr. Umes Chandra Batabyal. The first reminds the dwellers in cities and towns of the picturesqueness and charm of village life, particularly on festal occasions. The second is a collection of essays traversing a wide range of topics, including Theosophy, the Russian language and literature, Darwinism, the origin of the Indian Drama, Mesmerism, Phrenology, etc. The third is a work of research in respect of Vedic literature, and is marked by considerable originality and boldness of conception. Coincident with great fertility in the field of periodical literature is comparative barrenness in that of philosophy and religion. This can scarcely be more than a transient phase, for it is in these spheres that the literary activity of Bengal naturally finds its most copious and congenial expression.

Working of Act XXV of 1867.

595. Twenty-one prosecutions were instituted under the Act against 39 in the previous year. There were convictions in 16 cases, in 3 cases the defendants were discharged and 2 cases are still pending.

The Native Press.

596. The number of vernacular and Anglo-vernacular newspapers existing at the end of the year 1905 was 80. Sixty-five papers were published in Bengali, 1 in English and Bengali, 5 in Hindi, 4 in Uriya, 1 in English and Uriya, and 1 each in Urdu, Burmese, Persian, and Nagri. The *Jain Gazette* and the *Uluberia Darpan* ceased to exist as Anglo-vernacular papers during the year, but appeared as purely vernacular papers. Of the older native-owned English papers, the *Bengali* and the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* still maintain their reputation as being the most influential. Both have continued to show hostility towards Government. The tone of the *Indian Nation* remains scholarly and moderate. The *Hindu Patriot* is noticeable for its moderation, in its endeavour to show the Government point of view. The army reorganisation controversy, the resignation of Lord Curzon, the Russo-Japanese war, the Tibetan expedition, the Kabul Mission, and the Partition of Bengal were among the chief topics of interest discussed by the native press during the year.

Literary Societies.

See—
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II, PAGES 321-22.

Arts and Sciences.

The Sibpur Civil Engineering College.

597. The recently published regulations of the Calcutta University have in view the following objects as regards Engineering:—

(1) modernising the Engineering Course,

(2) affording specialised instruction in—

(*a*) Civil Engineering,

(*b*) Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, and

(*c*) Mining Engineering,

(3) facilitating the affiliation of schools of Engineering up to the First (or Intermediate) Engineering Examination.

The Principal of the Sibpur College anticipates good results from these changes.

Results of examinations and expenditure.

598. The results of the B.E. and F.E. examinations were satisfactory. In the former the percentage of success was 34·6, as compared with 25·9 and 46·1 in the two preceding years (1904-1905 and 1903-1904); while in the latter it was 53·3, as against 25 and 60·8 in the same years. The attendance at the College (82·2 *per cent.*) was not as good as in the previous year, when it was 92·5 *per cent.* This was owing to the fact that the year under review was a very unhealthy one at Sibpur, the daily average number of students under treatment, chiefly on account of malaria, being 22. The total expenditure of the College was Rs. 1,57,916, of which Rs. 1,29,249 were contributed from Provincial revenues, Rs. 22,405 from fees and Rs. 6,262 from other sources.

The Bihar School of Engineering.

599. This is an extremely important school, which teaches up to the Overseer standard. It had 171 students on the rolls at the commencement of the session. The Head Master reports that all the students who have passed out of the school in recent years have, as far as is known, easily obtained employment. The great success of this institution renders it likely that, before many years are past, this school will be raised to the status of a College. It is very satisfactory to notice that the establishment of a boarding-house attached to the school has developed in a marked degree a corporate and social life among the students: in this respect the school is a model which many colleges in Bengal could follow with great advantage. The results of the Overseer and Sub-Overseer examinations were satisfactory, 10 out of 13 students sent up passing the former, and 20 out of 32 students sent up passing the latter examination. Expenditure increased from Rs. 27,616 in the year 1904-1905 to Rs. 34,311 in the year under review. Of the last-named sum Rs. 29,222 were contributed from Provincial revenues and Rs. 5,089 from private sources.

The Cuttack Survey School.

600. This school at present turns out Surveyors and men of the Amin class. It is in contemplation, however, to raise its status to the Overseer standard at an early date, and for this purpose a considerable sum of money has been raised locally.

Motor Car Driver Class.

601. At the instance of the Automobile Association of Bengal a scheme is under the consideration of Government for the establishment of a class at the Sibpur Engineering College with the object of giving to men intending to become drivers of motor cars a mechanical training such as will enable them to execute all ordinary repairs.

Industrial Chemistry.

602. In order to meet the growing industrial needs of the Province, a scheme is under consideration for the establishment of classes for imparting instruction in Industrial Chemistry at the Sibpur College. The details of the scheme have still to be worked out.

Agriculture.

603. A class for instruction in Agriculture is attached to the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur. The course extends over a period of two years. Out of 11 students who were presented for the diploma examination, 7 were successful; while all obtained immediate employment under Government. This class will be transferred to the Provincial Agricultural College as soon as that institution is established.

The new scheme of commercial education.

604. The new scheme of commercial education has already been noticed under the Chapter on Education.

Higher commercial education required.

605. The commercial education provided at the Presidency College aims only at turning out men qualified to be good clerks. If the present scheme proves a success, it will obviously be necessary to provide before long for a superior commercial education such as will fit a man to conduct a business on his own account. Meantime, the proposal recently made by the Government of India to send scholars to England for an advanced course of commercial education will meet a distinct want in this Province.

Other commercial classes.

606. Commercial education is also provided at the Kurseong Victoria Boys' School and at several Government and aided high schools. In the case of the latter schools the course of study leads up to the day course prescribed for the commercial classes at the Presidency College. Besides the above-mentioned schools at which commercial instruction is given, there are three privately managed commercial schools, one aided and two unaided, which teach shorthand and type-writing.

The Calcutta Art School and Art Gallery.

607. At the instance of the Principal of the School of Art, a Japanese artist of the Tokio Art School was engaged temporarily during the year under review to give lessons in the Japanese method of brush-work and flower painting. The class in the school which gives the most promise is the Advanced Design Class. It is hoped that students from this class will be able to undertake the decoration of the new Art Gallery building which is now in process of construction. Pending the completion of the building referred to, the collection of Indian paintings belonging to the Art Gallery is stored in the Art School premises. These paintings were inspected during the year under review by a party of Japanese artists and Art experts, who declared them to be the best collection of Indian paintings to be seen in India. The increase in expenditure during the year under review (Rs. 21,464), shown under the head of "Schools of Art," was due to large purchases made for the Art Gallery of old Tibetan banner pictures, Buddhist statues, valuable textile fabrics, etc. Some of the inscriptions on the statues and paintings are said to be of considerable archæological interest.

CHAPTER VIII.—ARCHÆOLOGY.

Archæology.

608. Work in connection with the Black Pagoda at Kanarak was continued during the year. The pilasters and corbel in front of the eastern door of the Jagamohan temple were finished, and part of the stone heap removed. The planting of trees around the compound of the temple was in progress, and the bungalow for the use of visitors completed. A shed was erected over the Asoka inscription in the Dhauli hill. Repairs to the Mundeswari temple and the tomb of Baktyar Khan were in hand.

CHAPTER IX—MISCELLANEOUS.

Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

See—
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II, PAGE 325.

Ecclesiastical.

609. The Ecclesiastical establishment in Bengal during the year, paid entirely or in part by the Government, consisted of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, the Archdeacon and Bishop's Chaplain of Calcutta, the Domestic Chaplain to the Lord Bishop, the Registrar of the Diocese and Archdeaconry of Calcutta, the Most Revd. Archbishop Dr. Brice Meuleman, S.J., 16 Chaplains of the Church of England, 2 Chaplains of the Church of Scotland, 11 Ministers of the Additional Clergy Society, or other Societies, and 10 priests of the Roman Catholic Church. **Establishment.**

Chemical Examiner's Report.

[Report of the Chemical Examiner for the year 1905; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section VIII.]

610. The total number of analyses in the General Department during the year was 2,048 against 2,039 in the previous year. The flash point of 252 samples of kerosine oil (from Traffic Manager, Port Commissioners) was examined as against 298 of the previous year. None of these samples flashed under 76°F., therefore none were declared dangerous petroleum under Petroleum Act VIII of 1899. Ninety-eight samples were received during the year from the Collector of Customs for spirit determination against 151 of the previous year. There has thus been a further decrease under this head since the previous year, showing that the suggestion made by this Department to the Customs authorities that much of this work could bed one in their own laboratory has been still further adopted. Twenty-five samples of ghee were received during the year from the Supply and Transport Department and from Civil Surgeons for examination as to their quality. Of these, 17 samples were of good quality and fit for use, and eight samples proved to be adulterated. Fifty-six samples of nitro-explosives were received from the Inspector of Explosives and Collector of Customs during the year against 84 of the previous year and were examined. Seven hundred and eighty samples of fulminate of mercury were examined for the Superintendent, Ammunition Factory, Dum-Dum, against 818 of last year. One hundred and sixty-three samples of drinking and other waters were analysed *all quantitatively* during the year, against 144 samples of the previous year. These include nine samples of effluents analysed for the Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal, and nine samples of Bakeswar river water from the Collector of Birbhum, analysed with a view to ascertain their medicinal properties. **General Department.**

611. One thousand five hundred and nineteen medico-legal cases were investigated in 1905, as compared with 1,594 in the previous year; this showed a numerical decrease of 75 cases (chiefly of animal poisoning and stains) as compared with the preceding year. The total number of medico-legal articles examined in 1905 was 2,800 as compared with 3,193 in the preceeding year; the decrease was chiefly confined to stained articles and suspected substances in connection with human poisioning cases and preservative fluids. The viscera of 580 individuals suspected to have been poisoned were examined in 1905 as compared with 583 in 1904. Poison was detected in 263 viscera, or 45·34 per cent., as compared with 45·11 per cent. in the previous year. As usual, the most common poison was opium. Arsenic was next in frequency. The percentage of detection of poisons during the year was opium 27·47 per cent., arsenic 10·83 per cent., aconite 5·86 per cent., alcohol **Medico-legal Department.**

3·70 per cent., yellow oleander 3·10 per cent., atropine 1·03 per cent., strychnine ·86 per cent., copper salts ·51 per cent., and mercury salts ·48 per cent.

The viscera of 210 horned cattle were examined in 1905 as against 236 in the preceding year. In addition, the viscera of four horses, one dog and three fowls were examined for poison. In the case of horned cattle, poison was detected in 157 viscera, *i.e.*, 74·76 per cent. as compared with 72·45 per cent. in 1904. Aconite was detected in the viscera of two of the three fowls and arsenic was detected in the third.

Zoological Garden, Calcutta.

[Report of the Honorary Committee for the Management of the Zoological Garden for the year 1905-1906.]

612. The most notable event of the year was the visit to the garden of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales on the 1st of January 1906. No permanent improvement of a costly nature was undertaken during the year, but several additions and alterations were made to existing structures. The attendance of visitors was the greatest yet recorded. The turnstile records showed a total for the year of 422,282 persons admitted, being a daily average of 1,157 visitors. The financial condition of the garden was consequently exceptionally good, the receipt from visitors amounting to Rs. 31,224·4, which was an increase on the previous year by no less than Rs. 7,056-4. One of the most important incidents of the year was the transportation and reception of over fifty animals belonging to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. Special arrangements had to be made for their lodgment in the garden prior to their departure for the Zoological Society's Garden, London. The task of conveying so large a number of animals from Raxoul on the Nepal Frontier to Calcutta, especially as some of them were extremely susceptible to the climatic conditions then prevailing, though by no means easy, was satisfactorily performed.

Veterinary Department.

[The Annual Report of the Civil Veterinary Department, Bengal, and of the Bengal Veterinary College for the year 1905-1906.]

Veterinary Instruction.

613. The total number of students on the roll of the Bengal Veterinary College at the end of the year under report was 106 as against 85 in the previous year. The number would have been larger had not some of the students left the College after admission owing to want of sufficient accommodation in the hostel attached to it. Funds have already been allotted for the construction of a new hostel, and steps are being taken to carry out the work as quickly as possible. The results of the final and the annual class examinations of the College were not so satisfactory as in the preceding year, the percentages of the successful students in each of the classes A, B and C being 57, 82 and 47, respectively, as compared with 78, 95 and 80 in the previous year. This unsatisfactory result is mainly due to the inadequacy of the teaching staff of the College throughout the year, and to some extent to the inferior educational qualifications of the students admitted. Steps have already been taken to remove both these causes; the former, by the addition of a second Imperial officer to the teaching staff, who joined his duties in February last, or only a short time before the close of the year under report; and the latter, by the issue of revised rules laying down that only students who have passed the Entrance examination of the Calcutta University, or who have completed the High School course, or who can produce certificates of having received an education equivalent to either of these two standards should be eligible for admission to the College.

Treatment of Diseases.

614. The total number of animals treated in Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries, including the infirmary attached to the Bengal Veterinary College, during the year in the Province, as constituted after the partition of Bengal, was 29,312, of which 9,941 were horses, 15,252 cattle and 4,119 other animals, as against 7,929, 15,001 and 3,123 respectively during the preceding year. The figures show a general increase in the number of patients treated at the dispensaries and indicate the growing popularity of the scientific mode of treatment offered at these institutions.

There were altogether 530 cases of deaths from Glanders and Farcy in the Province during the year as against 430 in the previous year. Of these, 473 occurred in Calcutta and its neighbourhood as against 413 reported during the preceding year.

Deaths from cattle disease.

615. The total number of deaths from cattle disease was 12,374 as against 12,276 during the preceding year. Of these, by far the largest number of deaths (9,023) was caused by rinderpest.

Veterinary Infirmary, Belgachia.

616. The total number of animals treated during the year was 2,407, of which 1,483 were in-patients and 924 out-patients. There would have been a further increase in the number but for the outbreak in the infirmary of an infectious disease called *surra*, which for some time prevented the admission of any animal. It is satisfactory to note that during the latter half of the year the horse practice in the infirmary increased by 50 per cent. over that in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Breeding operations.

617. The Pusa and the Sripur Farms continued to be the only two cattle breeding farms in the Province managed and supervised by Government. Eight bulls of the Montgomery breed were purchased from the Amritsar Fair during the year for experiments in breeding, but, with the exception of two, they were found altogether wanting in breeding power. The failure of the experiment is ascribed to fraud committed by the vendors, who were probably aware that the bulls were useless as stud animals. The Veterinary Department is of the opinion that one of the best means of improving the breed of indigenous cattle would be to pay greater attention to the feed and upkeep of the cows and heifers of the country, and to afford greater facilities for grazing. Thirteen locally-bred cows were purchased during the year for breeding operations at the Pusa farm. The miscellaneous collection of cattle kept at the Sripur Farm was disposed of during the year, the breeding operations being confined to two classes of cattle, namely, those locally bred and those bred from the Montgomery bulls.

Fairs and Shows.

618. Ten fairs and shows were held during the year in the Province as against nine (excluding the Comilla Fair) in the preceding year, the Bagdogra Show in the district of Darjeeling having been started during the year. Unfortunately it proved a failure, owing to the unexpected inclemency of the weather at the time. Out of the Imperial grant of Rs. 1,500 for distribution in prizes, only Rs. 693 were spent. The large falling off in the expenditure was chiefly due to the policy recently adopted, under which prizes are awarded only to *bonâ fide* cultivators, professional graziers, and breeders of cattle.

Veterinary Dispensaries and Assistants.

619. Excluding the figures for the transferred districts, the total number of Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries working during the year in the Province was 21 as against 17 during the previous year. The total number of Veterinary Assistants employed under Government and local bodies during the year was 63 including 14 in the new Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, as compared with 54 during the previous year. All the dispensaries were inspected with the exception of that at Ranchi, and it appears from the report that, on the whole, they worked satisfactorily. The only dispensaries which have been unfavourably reported on are those at Howrah and Patna. The latter was badly reported on in the previous year. It is stated that the Veterinary Assistants in charge of dispensaries generally worked satisfactorily, the most prominent among them being those in charge of the Dumraon, Burdwan, Larpur and Palamau dispensaries.

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